

# West *Pocket Guide*

## West Region

- 1. County Mayo
- 2. County Galway
- 3. County Clare
- 4. County Limerick



- Things to do
- Places to see
- Family fun
- Events & Maps
- And lots MORE...

## ACTIVITIES

FI/11324-11



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## [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

**Aran Tourist Information Office**  
Kilronan, Inis Mór, Aran Islands, Co Galway  
T 099 61263  
E [aran@failteireland.ie](mailto:aran@failteireland.ie)

**Clifden Tourist Information Office**  
Galway Road, Clifden, Co Galway  
T 095 21163  
E [clifdentouristoffice@failteireland.ie](mailto:clifdentouristoffice@failteireland.ie)

**Galway Discover Ireland Centre**  
Forster Street, Galway City  
T 091 537700  
E [irelandwestinfo@failteireland.ie](mailto:irelandwestinfo@failteireland.ie)

**Westport Tourist Information Office**  
James Street, Westport, Co Mayo  
T 098 25711  
E [westport@failteireland.ie](mailto:westport@failteireland.ie)

**Adare Tourist Information Office**  
Adare Heritage Centre, Co. Limerick  
T 061 396255  
E [adaretio@shannondevelopment.ie](mailto:adaretio@shannondevelopment.ie)

**Ennis Tourist Information Office**  
Arthurs Row (off O'Connell St), Ennis, Co Clare  
T 065 6828366  
E [ennistio@shannondevelopment.ie](mailto:ennistio@shannondevelopment.ie)

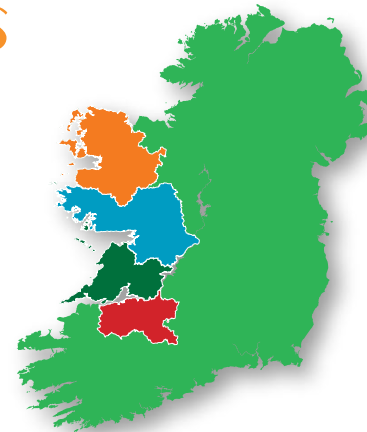
**Limerick City Tourist Information Office**  
Arthur's Quay, Limerick City  
T 061 317522  
E [Limericktio@shannondevelopment.ie](mailto:Limericktio@shannondevelopment.ie)

**Shannon Airport Tourist Information Office**  
Arrivals Hall, Shannon Airport, Co Clare  
T 061 471664  
E [shannontio@shannondevelopment.ie](mailto:shannontio@shannondevelopment.ie)

# Contents

Discover Ireland Centres/TIOs

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### Map References:

Each attraction has a map reference to identify its position on the regional map e.g. Ennis Town will be found at G4.



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## The West Counties Pocket Guide

### ACTIVITIES





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LIMERICK CITY AT NIGHT

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# Welcome to the West of Ireland

**The Counties of Clare, Galway, Limerick and Mayo promise the holiday experience of a lifetime with their rugged beauty, interspersed with bays, seascapes, mountains, lakes, rivers, festivals, events and finally last, but by no means least, a warm, friendly and gregarious people.**

Discover why the West Coast of Ireland is the perfect destination for your holiday break; explore and enjoy the spectacular scenery, wildlife and the great outdoors. Don't miss the beautiful Aran Islands, the unique experience of the Céide Fields, the natural heritage region of the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher or Ireland's European latest Destination of Excellence, Loop Head. While on your holiday here you can truly discover this outstanding part of the world – the great outdoors, its

colourful history, festivals galore, safe & sandy beaches, a rugged coastline, awe inspiring mountains and so much more.

The counties of Clare, Galway, Limerick and Mayo offer up a diverse range of activities. Whether you cycle, golf, horse ride, surf, fish or walk, it's all on offer here in a refreshingly beautiful landscape.

Ornithologists and botanists will delight in the vast variety of flora and fauna thriving in the unspoiled landscape of the West while the unpolluted, crystal clear waters of the Atlantic Ocean provide an underwater wonderland for the scuba diver.

We're lucky to have two of Ireland's main 'Gaeltacht' (Irish speaking) regions in counties Galway and Mayo. Within the Gaeltacht areas you'll notice the Irish language in use on signage and in everyday conversation. People here switch from Irish to English and vice-versa with fluency and their English is peppered with Irish colloquialisms.

The Gaeltachts and West Clare are renowned as a treasure trove of all that is best in the rich Irish heritage, culture and folklore, where people still play music, sing and dance in traditional Irish style.

These areas also tend to be areas of impressive physical beauty, worth spending time in for that reason alone.

## ACTIVITIES



BUNRATTY CASTLE, CO. CLARE

# Clare

Welcome to County Clare a haven of wild beauty and wonderful music.

Clare with its scenic beauty is a county carved out by nature and offers great picturesque diversity. Here you can enjoy the freshness of the Atlantic Coastline; the magnificent River Shannon; Lough Derg – Ireland's Pleasure Lake; lakeland areas; the incredible Burren or Ireland's European latest Destination of Excellence, Loop Head and so much more. Holidays in County Clare can be as relaxing or as active, as you decide.

There are great accommodation options in beautiful locations, from luxury castle hotels on their own estates, to bed and breakfasts or self-catering accommodation by the lake or sea. The backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean, cliffs, forests, rivers or lakes is idyllic. The County also boasts many fine 'good food circle' restaurants. Children are welcome and are well-catered for. They particularly like the beaches, sea-life centres, water worlds, show-caves, folk parks, dolphin-watching, visitor farms, forests and castles.

Clare's dramatic Atlantic Coastline includes some of the most stunning coastal scenery you will ever find. All along it you will encounter breathtaking scenery.

From the awesome Cliffs of Moher, the eerie lunar like Burren, the unspoilt and sometimes undiscovered Loop Head Peninsula or the tranquil lakelands... it is truly a county with many different locations to offer the visitor.

If walking is your pleasure then you will be spoilt for choice with the many well developed looped walks available throughout the County.

So come along to the Banner County and create your own holiday experience and memories...



## ACTIVITIES



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ENNIS, CAPITAL TOWN OF CO. CLARE



SURFING AT LAHINCH, CO. CLARE

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## Clare towns and villages

Each of the towns in County Clare have their own unique characteristics.

**Ennis G4** is at the beating heart of Clare. The atmospheric, winding medieval streets of this historic market town reveal intriguing characters and stories that shaped its history and are brought to life by local walking tour companies. Ennis is home to some wonderful attractions such as the Ennis Friary, Ennis Cathedral and Clare Museum. Ennis is also known as the 'Boutique Capital of Ireland', due to the variety of unique retail outlets on offer in the town.

**Shannon H4** is Clare's youngest town and its international airport is the gateway to the West of Ireland and the world's first custom free zone.

**Killaloe H5** nestled on the banks of Lough Derg, is the ancient capital of Ireland from the time of Brian Boru, and today a charming visitor base for exploring the River Shannon. Killaloe is a great activity hub, offering visitors a range of activities from walking trails to cruising to angling.

**Scarriff G5** remains an important market town which offers excellent facilities for the visitor interested in either active pursuits or leisurely sightseeing. The town is a noted angling centre, with wide appeal for both coarse and game anglers in the surrounding East Clare Lakelands comprised of over 40 lakes and rivers.

**Lisdoonvarna G3** in the north of the county is a popular town, long famed for its Spa Wells as well as its annual matchmaking festival.

**Bunratty H4** Bunratty, Bun Raite in Irish, means the 'bottom' or end of the 'Ratty' river. This river, alongside the castle, flows into the nearby Shannon estuary. When visiting Bunratty one should not miss the opportunity to visit Bunratty Castle and Folk Park which is open all year round. Traditional Irish Nights take place regularly at the castle and are a great way to spend an evening. Great shopping, restaurants & bars are dotted throughout the village.

**Kilfenora G3** a mere half hour drive from Ennis is the gateway to the Burren Region. A village steeped in a rich history and culture, Kilfenora is known in ancient manuscripts as the 'City of Crosses'.

**Ennistymon G3** has long been a bustling market town for the North Clare area and is renowned for its many attractive traditional shop fronts and neighbours the popular resort of Lahinch.

**Lahinch G3** is one of Ireland's most popular resorts, attracting thousands of visitors each year; the town is a world renowned for its surfing.

**Kilrush H3** a heritage town has fine attractions; from its marina, the Vandeleur Walled Gardens to the Scattery Island Visitor Centre.

**Milltown Malbay G3** situated on the Atlantic Coastline, is famed for its annual Willie Clancy School of Traditional Irish Music in July.

**Doolin G3** is renowned for its cosy pubs and their traditional music. Here you will find stores filled with all kinds of traditional Irish crafts and clothing, the little town of Doolin has everything a traveller to Ireland might be looking for.

For more information on Clare's towns and villages, visit our website  
[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Aillwee Cave & Burren Birds of Prey Centre F3

Ballyvaughan, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7077036  
Email: [info@aillweecave.ie](mailto:info@aillweecave.ie)  
[www.aillweecave.ie](http://www.aillweecave.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.091838, -9.150317

Aillwee Cave is Ireland's premier show cave. Visitors are guided on a 35 minute

stroll through caverns, over bridged chasms, beneath weird rock formations and alongside a thunderous waterfall. This stunning creation of nature was formed by the melt waters of a prehistoric ice age. 'Burren Birds of Prey Centre', located at Aillwee Cave in County Clare, features the largest display of Falcons, Harris Hawks, Owls, American Kestrels and White Tailed Sea Eagles in the country. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the birds in free flight, be able to handle and photograph rare birds of prey in a purpose built flying arena.

**Open:** Daily all year from 10.00. From middle of November and all of December by appointment only.

**Admission:** Cave Tour & Burren Birds of Prey Centre: Adult: €17.00. Child: €10.00. Family ticket: €39 – €49.



## Atlantic Air Venture H4

Shannon, County Clare.  
Tel: 087 2037487  
Email: [info@atlanticairventure.com](mailto:info@atlanticairventure.com)  
[www.atlanticairventure.com](http://www.atlanticairventure.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.42829, -8.52191

Atlantic Air Venture Aviation Centre in Shannon is the place to indulge your

curiosity or passion for flight with a mix of past and present aviation wonders and a totally 'hands on' experience! Learn about Shannon Airport's unique history and contribution to global aviation. Experience Flight on a full scale Boeing 737-800 Flight Simulator, constructed using the cockpit section of a real aircraft which was in service for over 30 years! Flying Challenges for all kinds of groups of adults and children for a really different day out!

**Open:** Monday to Saturday 10.00 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Group rates vary, telephone for details.



## Imecofarm H4

Islandmcgrath House, Clarecastle, Co. Clare.  
Tel: 065 6841552  
Email: [info@imecofarm.com](mailto:info@imecofarm.com)  
[www.imecofarm.com](http://www.imecofarm.com)

Imecofarm is a place to visit and learn while having fun! Eco Crafts, Eco Courses,

Farm Animals, Renewable Energy, Vintage, Wildlife and Nature. Activities include forest and river trails, treasure hunts, picnics, play areas, crafts and cafe. MASSIVE IN-DOOR areas!

**Open:** Every day 13.00 to 18.00 (May, June, July, Aug, Sep, and Oct).



## Burren Perfumery & Floral Centre G4

Carron, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7089102  
Email: [burrenperfumery@eircom.net](mailto:burrenperfumery@eircom.net)  
[www.burrenperfumery.com](http://www.burrenperfumery.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.043472, -9.045806

Ireland's first perfumery and tea rooms, the Burren perfumery was established

over thirty years ago in one of the most unique floral landscapes in the world. The perfumery produces a high quality range of natural aromatherapy products and fragrances. All the products are made using traditional methods from steam distillation to hand bottling. When visiting the perfumery you can see all of the different processes involved and sample the products with the help of the friendly staff. The Burren perfumery has an outstanding audio visual presentation and photographic exhibition. The organic herb garden is in an idyllic setting with large range of native organic herbs which are used in the handmade soaps and organic aromatherapy products. The relaxing tea rooms offer a selection of freshly baked organic cakes, garden soups, tea, herbal teas and coffee in the heart of the Burren.

**Open:** Daily all year round 10.00 – 17.00. July & August 09.00 – 19.00. June & September 10.00 – 18.00 (Christmas & January – see website).

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Burren Smokehouse G3

Lisdoonvarna, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7074432  
Email: [info@burrensmokehouse.ie](mailto:info@burrensmokehouse.ie)  
[www.burrensmokehouse.ie](http://www.burrensmokehouse.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.031, -9.289

Come in and get a tasting of our Smoked Salmon. We are passionate about our

local foods that you can buy in our Gourmet Shop. We send these gourmet foods to destinations all around the world with our mail order service. Learn about how we smoke our salmon. Enjoy our unique series of mosaics about the ancient legend The Salmon of Knowledge. Look at the biggest wild salmon that was ever caught for us. DVD presentations in English with German, Spanish, French, Italian and Dutch subtitles available. Pre-booked full presentations available.

**Open:** May – Sept. Daily 9.00 – 18.00. Mar, Apr, Oct, Nov, Dec: Weekdays 9.00 – 17.00, Weekends: 10.00 – 16.00. Jan & Feb: Weekdays 9.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** 7 minute DVD free of charge. Pre-booked Full Presentation €3, Student: €2.



## Caherconnell Stone Forts G4

Carron, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7089999  
Email: [info@burrenforts.ie](mailto:info@burrenforts.ie)  
[www.burrenforts.ie](http://www.burrenforts.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.047647, -9.1413

Caherconnell is one of the best-preserved stone forts in the Burren. Unique in

being the only one developed for tourism, it was built about 1500 years ago. Caherconnell incorporates Ireland's first Stone Fort virtual tour: an unprecedented re-creation of life, customs and design of the fort. The visitor centre also provides an audio visual presentation and a graphic display area. There is also a short history of other prominent local monuments including Poulabrone Dolmen (3800B.C), Poulawack Cairn (3400B.C) and Cahercommaun stone fort, all of which have been excavated. The graphic display provides detailed information on these topics.

**Open:** March – end Oct. 10.00 – 17.00. July & August 10.00 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €5.00, Child (under 5 years): Free of charge, Age 6-14 years €3. Family (2 adults, 2 children): €14. Group rates available on request.



## Irish Seed Savers G5

Capparoe, Scarriff, Co Clare.  
Tel: 061 921866/061 921856  
Email: [info@irishseedsavers.ie](mailto:info@irishseedsavers.ie)  
[www.irishseedsavers.ie](http://www.irishseedsavers.ie)  
Sat Nav: 52.844262, -9.981973

The ISSA is a voluntary organisation dedicated to the location and preservation

of traditional varieties of fruit and vegetables. The Association maintains a seed bank which distributes seed of these non-commercially available vegetables as well as a network of heritage potatoes. We pass them on to subscribers so that they can learn to save them and in this way ensure a living agricultural legacy.

**Open:** Monday to Saturday 9.30 – 17.00. Sunday 12.30 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Entrance to Organic Seed Gardens, Orchards and Woodlands is free to children & subscribers.



## Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience G3

Liscannor, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7086141  
Email: [info@cliffsofmoher.ie](mailto:info@cliffsofmoher.ie)  
[www.cliffsofmoher.ie](http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie)  
Sat Nav: 52.9714, -9.4235

The Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's top Visitor attractions. The Cliffs are

214m high at the highest point and range for 8 kilometres over the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare. O'Brien's Tower stands proudly on a headland of the majestic Cliffs. ATLANTIC EDGE is the exciting interpretive centre at the Cliffs of Moher New Visitor Experience. Housed at the centre of the underground building a huge domed cave contains images, exhibits, displays & experiences that will delight young and old alike.

**Open:** All year round (Christmas Day and surrounding days excluded) Opening time varies between 8.30 and 9.00. Closing time varies with the time of sunset. For exact times see website or telephone.

**Admission:** Adult: €6, Concession: €4, Child under 16: Free of charge. O'Brien's Tower: Adult €2, Child: €1. Cliffs Exhibition only ticket prices: Adult €3.95, Concession: €2.60, Child under 16: Free of charge. Group & Trade rates available, phone or e-mail for more information.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Doolin Cave G3

Doolin, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7075761  
Email: [tours@doolincave.ie](mailto:tours@doolincave.ie)  
[www.doolincave.ie](http://www.doolincave.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.016, -9.378

Doolin Cave is one of Europe's most compelling cave attractions. It is a truly authentic experience. 'The Great Stalactite' It is your only opportunity to see such a large free hanging stalactite anywhere in the world. From the moment you descend over 80ft into the first tunnel, with your guide, you will enter a world carved by water.

**Open:** Jan – Feb 16th – by appointment only. Feb 17th – March 15th and November – Friday to Sunday 12.00 – 17.00. March 15th – June 28th 11.00 – 17.00. June 29th – Sept 30th 10.00 – 18.00. October 12.00 – 17.00, Daily. December – Santa Visit Special, check website or phone for more info.

**Admission:** Adult €15, Child €8, Family (2 adults & up to 3 children) €45.



## Dysert O'Dea G4

Corofin, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 6837401  
Email: [bredaconsidine@eircom.net](mailto:bredaconsidine@eircom.net)  
[www.dysertcastle.com](http://www.dysertcastle.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.9125, -9.0666

The authentically restored 15th century Dysert O'Dea castle, the stronghold of the O'Dea Clan is the domicile of the "Clare Archaeology Centre" and houses an extensive museum, an audio-visual presentation, exhibition rooms and a wall walk at top of castle. A tour of the castle and exhibitions gives the visitor a feel for the history and heritage of Dysert O'Dea, and will serve as a primer for the history walk. Dysert Archaeology Trail: Dysert O'Dea church stands on the site of an early Christian Monastery with its most famous Romanesque doorway, round tower, 12th century high cross, earthen forts, holy wells, medieval roads and so much more.

**Open:** Trail open all year round, Castle open May – September (10.00 – 17.30).

**Admission:** Adult: €4, Concession: €3.50. Family: €13.



## West Clare Railway H3

Moyasta, Kilrush, Co. Clare.  
Phone: 065 905 1284  
Email: [info@westclarerailway.ie](mailto:info@westclarerailway.ie)  
[www.westclarerailway.ie](http://www.westclarerailway.ie)  
Sat Nav: 52° 40' 17" North, 9° 32' 18"

The importance, magnitude and impact of the birth of the West Clare Railway on the local transport system of County Clare is beyond measurement. The story has been well documented over the years, in book and in song and can now be seen in person. A museum has been recently added to the attraction. It houses 5 working diesel engines, 2 carriages altered to provide reception and refreshment facilities together with informational technology, and an engine shed with pit.

**Open:** April to September, 12.00 to 17.00, Halloween & Christmas specials.

**Admission:** Adult: €8.00, Child: €5.00. Group Rates available for groups of 10+.



## Lahinch Seaworld G3

The Promenade, Lahinch, Co Clare.  
Phone: 065 7081900  
Email: [lahinchseaworld@eircom.net](mailto:lahinchseaworld@eircom.net)  
[www.lahinchseaworld.com](http://www.lahinchseaworld.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.933554, -9.347745

Spend a fun-filled day at the Seaworld indoor complex overlooking the majestic Lahinch beach. Explore the amazing marine life off the West coast in our Atlantic Aquarium, where you can see and experience native sharks, rays, conger eels, flatfish and lobster. Splash your way through the swimming pool area and relax in our 25m swimming pool, kiddie's pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and steam room.

**Open:** Daily year round.

**Admission:** Aquarium adult admission: €7, Child: €5, under 3's go free.

Student/OAP: €6. Family ticket: €20.

Pool adult admission €6.50, child €5.00, under 3's go free. Student €5, Family ticket €20. Aquarium and Pool adult admission: €10, Child: €8, under 3's go free. Student: €8, Family ticket: €30.

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Michael Cusack Centre G4

Carron, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7089944  
Email: [info@michaelcusack.ie](mailto:info@michaelcusack.ie)  
[www.michaelcusack.ie](http://www.michaelcusack.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.0211, -9.0885

Michael Cusack founded the largest amateur sporting organisation in the

world, the Gaelic Athletic Association. The centre, located in the picturesque Burren, is on the original homestead and incorporates the family cottage. Discover a revolutionary new multimedia experience, the first of its kind in Ireland. Unique holographic projections facilitate a face-to-face encounter with the “ghost” of Michael Cusack in his homestead. Learn about what led him to establish a sporting organisation to save ancient Irish games which were on the verge of extinction.

**Open:** Daily April to October 10.00 – 17.00. School and coach tours welcome. Winter tours by appointment.

**Admission:** Adult: €4.95. Adult Couple: €8.00.

Student/Senior/Concession: €3.50. Child 6-16yrs: €3. Children under 6 free.

Family (2 adults + 2 children): €13.95.



## Moher Hill Open Farm G3

Liscannor, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7081071/7086867  
Email: [moherfarm@eircom.net](mailto:moherfarm@eircom.net)  
[www.moherfarm.com](http://www.moherfarm.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.9572, -9.4183

Beautifully situated overlooking Liscannor Bay, this Award Winning (Environmental

Award) farm is close to Ennistymon, Lahinch, Liscannor and Doolin. Visitors to the farm can interact with a variety of beguiling animals, those typical on Irish farms, and some from more exotic locations including emu, ostrich, llama and a family of Vietnamese pot bellied pigs. There are also a number of indoor facilities including go-karting, bouncing castle and ball-pool. On site mini-golf, children’s play area, café/tuck shop and picnic area.

**Open:** Daily May – Sept. 10.00 – 18.00. Weekends April & October 12.00 – 18.00. Open Easter, Easter Holidays, Halloween & Santa Village in December.

**Admission:** Adult: €7, Child: €8, Child Under 6yrs: €6. Infants free.



## The Burren Centre G3

Kilfenora, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 7088030  
Email: [info@theburrencentre.ie](mailto:info@theburrencentre.ie)  
[www.theburrencentre.ie](http://www.theburrencentre.ie)  
Sat Nav: 52.990032, -9.218892

The Burren Centre gives the visitor an introduction to the visual delights and

ancient mysteries which await to be discovered in this unspoiled corner of Ireland. Follow the story of the formation of the Burren’s lunar landscape where man hunted bear, and wolves roamed the forests. See how, thousands of years ago, man left his mark on the landscape in the form of Dolmens and burial chambers. They still stand today, stone sentinels at the gates of our civilisation’s history.

**Open:** Daily. Last admission half an hour before closing time. March 15th to May 31st, 10.00 – 17.00. June 1st to August 31st, 09.30 – 17.30. Sept 1st to Oct 31st, 10.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult €6. Student/Senior €5. Child (5 years of age or under): Free of charge, (6 to 16yrs) €4. Family (2 adults & 4 children) €20.



## Vandeleur Walled Garden H3

Kilrush, County Clare.  
Tel: 065 9051760  
Email: [info@vandeleurwalledgarden.ie](mailto:info@vandeleurwalledgarden.ie)  
[www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie](http://www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie)  
Sat Nav: 52.636435, -9.473644

Beautiful old stonewalls enclose this sheltered Walled Garden (2.158 acres)

which is set among 420 acres of native woodland. The garden has been restored around the old path system with a horizontal maze, unusual water-features and a free-standing Victorian-style working glasshouse which is accessible to visitors. The garden specializes in many unusual and tender plants that thrive in the area’s uniquely western latitude micro climate. Children can enjoy the living willow structure, sand area and follow the butterfly trail. A collection of old farm machinery enhances the courtyard. So come and visit this lovely garden and have a rest in our coffee shop and enjoy some delicious homemade food.

**Open:** All year. Closed on Weekends from Oct to March and Christmas. For details visit website.

**Admission:** Adult: €5. Child: €2, Senior/Student €3. Family (2 adults and 3 children) €10. Group rates available. Guided tours by appointment (Mon – Fri).

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Craggaunowen H4

Kilmurray, Sixmilebridge, County Clare.  
Tel: 061 360788  
Email: [reservations@shannonheritage.com](mailto:reservations@shannonheritage.com)  
[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.810, -8.793

### Craggaunowen – the Living Past

**Experience** is Ireland's original award winning Pre-historic Park. Situated on

50 acres of wooded grounds, the Park interprets Ireland's pre-historic and early Christian eras. It features a stunning recreation of some of the homesteads, animals and artefacts which existed in Ireland over 1,000 years ago. Explore the Crannog, the Ring Fort, the Medieval Castle and the 'Brendan Boat' – a leather hulled boat built by Tim Severin who sailed across mid-Atlantic re-enacting the voyage of St. Brendan and the early Christian monks reputed to have discovered America centuries before Columbus.

**Open:** Mid May to September 10.00 – 17.00 (last admission 16.00) Opening & closing times subject to change – For further details call 061 360788.

**Admission:** Adult: €9.00, Child: €5.50 Student/OAP: €6.85, Family Ticket (2 Adults+2 Children): €21.50. Group Rates available on request.



## Bunratty Castle & Folk Park H4

Bunratty, Co. Clare.  
Tel: 061 360788  
Email: [reservations@shannonheritage.com](mailto:reservations@shannonheritage.com)  
[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.6986, -8.8111

Within the grounds of Bunratty Folk Park 19th century Irish life is vividly recreated.

Set on 26 acres, the impressive park features over 30 buildings in a 'living' village and rural setting. Meet and chat with the Bean an Ti (Woman of the House) and various street characters including the Policeman and Schoolteacher who give the site its sparkle. Enjoy the tastes, scents, sights and sounds of this enchanting place as you stroll from house to house or around the charming village complete with school, post office, doctors house, hardware shop, printers and of course the pub! It's a wonderful experience for adults and children alike with something for everyone to enjoy!

**Open:** Daily, year round 9.00 – 17.30 (last admission to Park 16.15, to Castle 16.00). Closed Dec 24th & 25th.

**Admission:** Varying categories including family, seniors, and children.

### ACTIVITIES



CLIFFS OF MOHER, CO. CLARE

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### Mooghaun Bronze Age Hillfort **H4**

Newmarket on Fergus.

Sat Nav: 540614, 670254.

Built at the beginning of the Late Bronze Age around 950 BC this site is enclosed by woodland and is a self guided trail up to the Hillfort which is identified as the largest in Ireland. The largest and most spectacular hoard of prehistoric gold in Western Europe was found at Mooghaun Lough 1km north of the hillfort and is on display in the National Museum of Ireland. Free Admission/Free Parking.

### Aister Park **G5**

Mountshannon.

Sat Nav: 52.9351 -8.429.

A 4.5 acre unique park which includes a maze incorporating timber, stone and foliage which takes the visitor through an informative exploration of Irish Spirituality over 9000 years. Experience your inner journey through walking the Aistear Labyrinth. Free Admission/Free Parking.

### Loop Head Lighthouse **I1**

Loop Head Lighthouse station's cliff top position affords 300ft views of the sea down to Kerry Head and Dingle across the Shannon and up the Clare coast to the Cliffs of Moher to the north.

### Poulnabrone Dolman **F3**

The Burren.

Sat Nav: 53.0488 - 9.1404.

This dolmen is among the most famous landmarks in the Burren. The remarkable image of the sun setting through the Dolmen is one of those most commonly associated with the area.

### Quin Abbey **H4**

Quin Village.

Quin Abbey was founded by the Mc Namaras in the 14th century. The cloisters were built in 1402 and remain one of the prominent features of the abbey.

### Scattery Island **H3**

Kilrush.

Scattery Island has been an ecclesiastical centre since early times. A monastery reputedly founded there by St Senan in the sixth century suffered under the Vikings in the ninth and tenth centuries and was largely destroyed in Tudor times.

### Slieve Carron Nature Reserve **G4**

Carron.

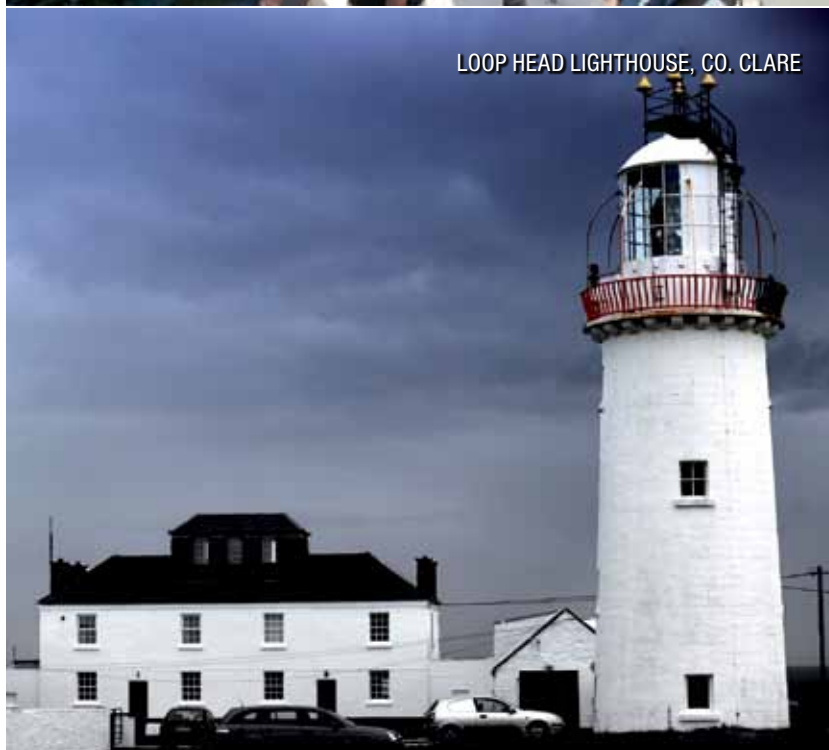
A favourite of local people, the nature reserve contains a rich array of flora and fauna as well as historical features such as an old oratory and a fulacht fia.

Parking spaces are limited.

## The West Counties Pocket Guide



DOLPHIN WATCHING BOAT TRIP, LOOP HEAD, CO. CLARE



LOOP HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, CO. CLARE

## ACTIVITIES





ACTIVITIES

Ennis Town

- 01 Ennis General Hospital
- 02 Cusack Park
- 03 Franciscan Abbey (in Ruins)
- 04 The Ennis Friary
- 05 Gor Irish Music Centre
- 06 Ennis Railway & Bus Station
- 07 Ennis Cathedral
- 08 Clare Museum
- 09 O'Connell Square & Monument
- 10 Saint Columbus Church



CLADDAGH BASIN, GALWAY CITY

# Galway

Galway is a county, an experience to be savoured and remembered.

Medieval **Galway City** is a whirlwind of activity. Don't miss the **Galway Arts Festival** – a vibrant visual spectacle and continually innovative.

Outside the city attractions include the **Aran Islands** with the Dún Aonghusa fort and fabled stone wall network. **Connemara** is celebrated for its ethereal beauty and has lots to see. At **Dan O'Hara's Homestead**, the Connemara history and heritage centre provides an insight into this wild and lyrical land, while nearby **Connemara National Park** and the magnificent **Kylemore Abbey** are 'must sees'.

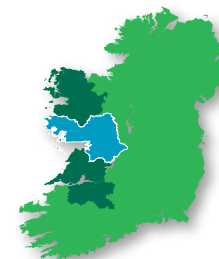
**Coole Park & Visitor Centre**, once the home of Lady Gregory, is now a nature reserve. **Brigit's Garden** near Oughterard has 11 acres of native woodland and wildflower meadow.

**Galway East** a quiet, low lying landscape interlaced with stone walls, attractions such as **Athenry Castle & Heritage Centre**, hidden pearls like the pre-Christian **Turoe Stone**, **Clonfert Cathedral**, **Dartfield Horse Museum** and **Portumna Forest Park**.

While the **Galway Races**, **Galway International Oyster Festival** and the **Clarenbridge Oyster Festival** compete as the social events of the season, there's lots more on offer for you to see and do such as medieval banquets at **Dunguaire Castle**; a visit to the **Ocean & Country Visitor Centre**, **Glengowla Mines** or indeed the **Ballinasloe Horse Fair**, one of the most ancient gatherings in the region.

The first Ironman event in Ireland, Ironman 70.3 Series will take place in Galway, on September 4th 2011.

That's Galway – different, special and never, ever predictable.



## ACTIVITIES



24 EYRE SQUARE, GALWAY CITY



LEENANE, CO. GALWAY 25

## Galway towns and villages

Galway's towns and villages are the type of places, those special, magical places that everyone wants to visit; that every visitor wants to return to; and that anyone lucky enough to live in, never, ever wants to leave.

**Galway City E4** is the 4th largest City in Ireland (population circa 80,000). It began as a small fishing village centred on the estuary of the River Corrib, a river traditionally called Abhainn Na Gaillimhe (The Galway River) after Galvia, a mythological princess said to have drowned in its waters.

There is vibrancy to the friendly University City, which many delight in, and few forget. Music, festivals, horse racing, pubs, restaurants, shops, theatres and most of all Galway people, combine to create an atmosphere you will want to return to again and again.

**Athenry E5** 23km east of Galway City, contains some of the finest remaining town walls in Ireland including five towers and a town entrance known as North Gate. The castle, surrounded by its own curtain wall and towers, was constructed in three phases between the 13th and 15th centuries. It fell into ruin, but has recently been restored and each year hosts a medieval festival.

**Ballinasloe E6** is a prosperous and expanding town 65km east of Galway City and is the main commercial/industrial centre for east Galway. The angling centre on the River Suck, which is renowned for its pike, bream, perch fishing in its more slow-running sections and trout in its tributaries. The town is famous for its annual horse fair and festival normally held in early October.

**Cleggan D1** on the southern shores of sheltered Cleggan Bay, 9km from Clifden, is both the centre of the north Connemara sea fishing industry and the ferry port for Inishbofin Island lying 9km out in the Atlantic.

**Clifden D1** 78km northwest of Galway City, is Connemara's largest town and regarded as its capital. With fine hotels, guesthouses and restaurants, it is the ideal base for the holiday maker whether touring Connemara or engaging in an outdoors holiday, with adventure centres, angling, walking, and stunning scenery and wildlife all on offer.

In Clifden in October 1907, a defining event in world communication took place when the first commercial transatlantic message was transmitted from Guglielmo Marconi's Station in Clifden to his North American complex in Glace Bay, Newfoundland, Canada. This message effectively launched the concept of telecommunication accessibility for all.

**Clonbur D3** lies near Cong and the Mayo border and is an ideal centre for the trout angler as it nestles easily between the two great lakes Corrib and Mask. Try your hand at the excellent and exciting fishing on three of Europe's premier trout and salmon lakes, as Lough Carra is also within easy reach.

**Gort F4** is located 38km from Galway City. The town was founded on the settlements of former chieftains of the district and is a now a recognised heritage town. Within it's hinterland you will find an amazing richness of historical sites such as the Kilmacduagh monastic settlement.

**Headford E4** some 28km north of Galway City is a popular angling centre for the eastern shore of Lough Corrib and is also an area rich in archaeological monuments, ranging from prehistoric burial grounds, Iron Age stone enclosures, early Norman and later castles, to a bewildering array of monastic sites.

**Kinvara F4** village is situated at the head of Kinvara Bay with Dunguaire Castle standing guard over its entrance. The village is one of Galway's well-loved tourist spots where medieval banquets are held nightly each summer in an old 16th Century tower house. Kinvara is home to the annual festival Cruinniú Na mBád (the Gathering of the Boats).

**Leenane D2** is nestled snugly beneath the Maamturk Mountains on the southern inner shore of Killary Harbour – Ireland's only fjord. The village enjoys wonderfully scenic views of Mayo's Mweelrea Mountains across the dark blue waters of the harbour. The film 'The Field' was shot here and Leenane is also known for its outdoor pursuit's centres.

## ACTIVITIES



**Letterfrack D1** is a delightful village 13km from Clifden. Today the village's old Victorian school buildings house a number of enterprises that form the nucleus of what is now Connemara National Park. A Furniture College linked to the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology is a thriving centre of activity for local and regional development.

**Loughrea F5** sits on the shores of Galway's second largest limestone lake, after Lough Corrib. Loughrea's greatest jewel is its Cathedral, where you can see Irish artisan craftsmanship at its highest level – a treasure house of arts and crafts of Celtic revival.

**Newbridge D5** is a small quaint rural village built on the River Shiven located on the N63 Galway City to Roscommon road. Nearby this rural village is an old graveyard that dates back to prehistoric times.

**Oughterard E3** the 'Gateway to Connemara', offers the visitor an enjoyable and unforgettable experience. This is Lough Corrib's main angling centre and its hotels, guesthouses and pubs cater for the many anglers who come for the Mayfly dapping season in early summer and for the Daddy and Harry dap in early autumn.

**Portumna F6** is a well-known tourist destination for boaters, golfers and anglers thanks to its natural amenities. The town is at the junction of the River Shannon and Lough Derg and so has a number of harbours for cruisers. This historic crossing point over the Shannon River between counties Tipperary and Galway has a long history of bridges and ferry crossings.

**Rossaveal F2** village is 36km west of Galway city and the county's main fishing harbour. The village is also the ferry port for the short trip to the Aran Islands.

**Roundstone E1** in the heart of Connemara is one of the oldest fishing villages on the west coast, and is an area of much natural beauty, as well as being the birth place and inspiration for much of Ireland's artistic creations. The village has been described many times as a botanist's delight as many of Ireland's rare wild flowers are found in the area known as Errisbeg which rises almost to 1,000ft (west of the village). Roundstone enjoys unparalleled views of the Twelve Bens and the vast Atlantic Ocean.

**Spiddal F3** is an area which still manages to value the culture and traditions of Gaeltacht heritage. Its charming stone church, traditional pubs and excellent restaurants combine with a fine sandy beach to make Spiddal a favourite tourist stop.

**Tuam D4** lies 32km north of Galway City and is one of the county's largest towns. Its skyline is dominated by two cathedrals – the marvellous chancel arch and windows, together with the restored 14th Century Synod Hall of St Mary's contrasting well with the soaring splendour of the tower and spires of the Cathedral of the Assumption.

For more information on Galway's towns and villages, visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

### ACTIVITIES



PIEBALD DONKEY FOAL IN CONNEMARA

# Visitor Attractions



## Athenry Castle

E5

Athenry Town, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 844797  
Email: [athenrycastle@opw.ie](mailto:athenrycastle@opw.ie)  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Athenry is one of Ireland's most notable surviving medieval walled towns and owes its foundation to Meiler de

Bermingham who built Athenry Castle in c.1250. The great three-storey tower which now houses an audio visual area and exhibition is surrounded by defensive walls and is accessed at first-floor level through an unusual decorated doorway.

**Open:** Easter to 30th September: Daily 10.00 – 18.00. 1st October to 29th October: Monday to Thursday only, 10.00 – 18.00. Last admission 45 minutes before closing. Season: April to October.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Child/Student: €1, Senior/Group: €2, Family: €8.



## Athenry Heritage Centre

E5

St. Mary's, The Square, Athenry,  
Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 844661  
Email: [info@athenryheritagecentre.com](mailto:info@athenryheritagecentre.com)  
[www.athenryheritagecentre.com](http://www.athenryheritagecentre.com)  
Sat Nav: N 53.29918 W 8.74637

This award-winning heritage centre provides a unique visitor experience with interactive exhibits which include armour, audio-visual presentations, the market square and the medieval dungeon. See the town's original 15th Century Mace & Seal. The 'Medieval Experience' includes dressing up in medieval costume and a guided tour of the centre and tests your skills with have-a-go archery. Visitors can explore the wooden maze and the herb garden or relax in the picnic area. Located in the centre of the best preserved medieval town in Ireland.

**Open:** Sunday to Friday, 11.00 – 16.00. Season: 17th March to 31st October.

**Admission:** Medieval Experience Family Ticket: €20, Single: €6, Group Rate x 4: €18, Senior/Student: €4, General Admission: €3.



## Aughnanure Castle

E3

Oughterard, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 552214  
Email: [aughnanurecastle@opw.ie](mailto:aughnanurecastle@opw.ie)  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

This is a particularly fine example of a 16th Century Irish Tower House and lies in picturesque surroundings close to the

shores of Lough Corrib. Here visitors will also find the remains of a banqueting hall, a watch tower, an unusual double bawn, bastions and a dry harbour.

**Open:** Daily 9.30 – 18.00. Season: 21st April to 26th October.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Child/Student: €1, Senior/Group: €2, Family: €8. Free guided tours with admission ticket.



## Brigit's Garden

E3

Roscahill, Co. Galway.  
Tel: 091 550905  
Email: [info@brigitsgarden.ie](mailto:info@brigitsgarden.ie)  
[www.brigitsgarden.ie](http://www.brigitsgarden.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.3863, -9.2128

The beautiful Celtic gardens offer a magical experience for adults and

children of all ages. Relax in the basket swings and sit on the ancient throne. Take a stroll around the nature trail and explore the stone chamber and crannóg. This is a family-friendly place with a kids' discovery trail and natural play areas. There's also a Gift Shop, and delicious fresh food in the Garden Café. See website for an exciting programme of special events all year round.

**Open:** 10.00 to 17.50, daily from 1st April to 30th September, February, March and October open daily except Saturdays.

**Admission:** May – September: Adult: €7.50, Senior/Student/Group: €6, Family (2 adults, 3 children): €22, Child: €4.50. Early/late season: Adult: €5.50, Senior/Student/Group: €4.50, Family: €17, Child: €3.50.

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Ceardlann, Spiddal Craft and Design Studios

F3

An Spidéal, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 553376  
www.spiddalcrafts.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.2467N 9.3028W

Here you will find 9 artisans designing, creating and selling their unique craft

pieces. The centre houses a range of workshops, including candle making, stained glass, pottery, screen-printing and siopa Gaeilge, weaving, Celtic jewellery and two artist's studios together with a wonderful restaurant.

The Ceardlann is beautifully located, on the shore of Galway Bay, overlooking The Burren and the Aran Islands. It is a "must stop" for visitors interested in Irish culture and crafts.

**Open:** All year round. Daily 9.30 – 18.00 in Summer. Monday to Friday off peak with some shops open at weekend. Contact to check opening hours in off-peak season.



## Cnoc Suain F3

An Spidéal, Conamara.  
Tel: 091 555703  
Email: info@CnocSuain.com  
www.CnocSuain.com

200 acres of magnificent wilderness! A sense of timelessness & history! In this enchanting, family-owned, Conamara hill village, ½ hour approx. from Galway,

celebrate Irish/Gaelic culture:- landscape, language, music, song & céilí dance. Intriguing Bog experiences! Stories of Rushlights & Bog Bodies. Enjoy Customs & Traditions, Irish Soda Bread-making by an open fire in a thatched cottage. Interactive & Fun!

"Cnoc Suain, a place quite unlike any other." The Guardian.

2010 Travel + Leisure 'Global Vision Awards' Winner 'Cultural Immersion'.  
The Guardian – 2009 World Ethical Travel Award / 2010 Green Travel List.

**Season:** March to October. Depart Galway Coach Park 10.00am: Wed., Fri., Sat. Return 13.00. Access by coach only. Self-drive visitors: Coach pick-up at designated places. Booking at: www.GalwayTourCompany.com, Tel: 091 566 566.

**Admission:** Price: €30pp (including coach). Limited numbers. Age: 12+ years. All-weather experience. Private groups: All year. Rates at: www.CnocSuain.com



## Connemara Heritage Centre/ Dan O'Haras Homestead

E2

Lettershea, Clifden, Co Galway.  
Tel: 095 21246  
Email: info@connemaraheritage.com  
www.connemaraheritage.com  
Sat Nav: N 53.47932 W 009.91186

Nestled into the hillside beneath

the Twelve Bens is Dan O'Hara's restored cottage – a man made famous in song and story. This experience includes a history presentation 'Connemara through the ages', reconstructions of a crannóg, a ring fort and a clochaun, the homestead & pre-famine farm, guided tours for groups with turf cutting and other demonstrations on request. Craft shop and restaurant on site.

**Open:** Daily 10.00 – 18.00. Last Admission 17.00.

Season: 1st April to 31st October (off season by request for groups).

**Admission:** Adult/Senior: €8, Child: €4, Student: €7,  
Family (2 adults & 4 children): €20. Group rates on request.



## Connemara Marble Visitor Centre E3

Moycullen, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 555102/091 555746  
Email: ajoyce@connemaramarble.iol.ie  
www.kylemoreabbeytourism.ie  
Sat Nav: N 53°20.434', W009°11.076

The mining of Connemara Marble is one of Ireland's oldest indigenous industries.

The Joyce family opened the Streamstown marble quarry in Clifden in 1822. Marble from the Streamstown quarry adorns the floor of Galway Cathedral and the walls of the Senate Chamber of the State Capital Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. The Connemara Marble Centre offers the visitor the option to purchase Connemara jewellery, gift items and to view the master craftsmen at work cutting and polishing marble.

**Open:** January – April, Monday to Friday 9.00 – 17.00.

May – October, Monday to Sunday 9.00 – 17.00.

November – December, Monday to Friday 9.00 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Connemara National Park D1

Letterfrack, Co. Galway.  
Tel: 095 41323/41054  
Email: [cnp@environ.ie](mailto:cnp@environ.ie)  
[www.connemaranationalpark.ie](http://www.connemaranationalpark.ie)

Connemara National Park is situated in the West of Ireland in County Galway and covers almost 3,000 hectares of scenic

mountains, expanses of bogs, heaths, grasslands and woodlands. It is one of six National Parks in Ireland managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The park facilities include an exhibition, Diamond Hill walks, AV Theatre, playground, tea rooms, picnic area and toilets. The grounds are open all year and the visitor centre is open from March to October. The visitor centre is also wheelchair friendly.

**Open:** Daily 09.00 – 17.30, March – October.

Note: Opening details are subject to change.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



## Connemara Smokehouse D1

Bunowen Pier, Aillebrack,  
Ballyconneely, Co Galway.  
Tel: 095 23739  
Email: [info@smokehouse.ie](mailto:info@smokehouse.ie)  
[www.smokehouse.ie](http://www.smokehouse.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53°24' 18.00"N 10°7' 0.00" W

A small family-run business perched on the water's edge at Bunowen Pier in the small village of Aillebrack, just 20 minutes drive from Clifden town. Traditional methods and very high quality seafood are the priority in this Smokehouse specialising in wild and organic salmon, smoked and marinated. Another speciality is the unique smoked Irish tuna. This multi-award winning business is one of Rick Stein's 'Super Heroes'. Come and see the products traditionally hand prepared on the famous Smokehouse Tour.

**Open:** Monday to Friday, 9.00 – 17.00. Closed from 13.00 – 14.00.

Open all year round except bank holidays & seasonal holidays. Smokehouse Tours – June to August, each Wednesday at 15.00. Group Tours available all year round by appointment only.

**Admission:** Free of charge except for fully guided tour. Please enquire for rates.



## Coole Park & Visitor Centre F4

NPWS, Coole Park, Gort, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 631804  
Email: [info@coolepark.ie](mailto:info@coolepark.ie)  
[www.coolepark.ie](http://www.coolepark.ie)

Coole Park, now a nature reserve, was once the home of Lady Gregory, dramatist and co-founder of the Abbey

Theatre with W. B. Yeats and Edward Martyn. Attractions include nature trails, wooded walks, river, lake and 'turlough' – a seasonal lake, appearing when rainfall is high - walled garden, autograph tree and picnic area. The Visitor Centre has audio visual and an exhibition. Guided walks provided for groups. Children and family activities organised during summer months. The tearooms offer delicious home-baking, snacks and lunches.

**Open:** Park open daily - Summer: 8.30 – 19.30. Winter: 8.30 – 18.00.

Visitor Centre – Easter to June daily: 10.00 – 17.00. July and August daily: 10.00 – 18.00. September 1st to 18th: 10.00 – 17.00. Tearooms – 10.30 – 17.00 as above. Season: Visitor Centre & Tearooms: 23rd April to 18th September.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



## Dartfield Horse Museum & Park F5

Kilreekil, Loughrea, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 843968  
Email: [tct@eircom.net](mailto:tct@eircom.net)  
[www.dartfield.com](http://www.dartfield.com)

Dartfield Horse Museum and Park is a fascinating visitor attraction dedicated to the heritage of the Irish horse

and kids just love it! There are pony rides, horse drawn carriage trips and a comprehensive museum charting the history of the horse. Horse riding for all levels, Archery and Clay Pigeon Shoot and Off-road 4X4 Track. Shop and café on site.

**Open:** Daily 09.30 – 18.00. Season: Open all year.

**Admission:** Adult: €9, Senior/Student: €6.50, Family (family of 4): €20. Child U-5 years: Free of charge. Groups of 10 or more €7 per person.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Dún Aonghasa

F2 ↑↑↑

Kilmurvey, Inis Mór, Aran Islands,  
Co Galway.  
Tel: 099 61008  
Email: [dunaonghasa@opw.ie](mailto:dunaonghasa@opw.ie)  
[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Dún Aonghasa, on Inis Mór, is the island's most famous landmark – the largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran Islands. Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and set on the cliff edge with a 300ft drop to the sea, the semi-circular stone fort is a powerful site enclosed by three massive stone walls. Access for disabled to visitor centre only.

**Open:** 1st November to 31st March: 10.00 – 16.00.

1st April to 31st October: 9.00 – 18.00. Season: Open all year.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Student: €1, Family: €8, Groups: €2.00 per person.



## Dunguaire Castle

F4 ↑↑↑

Kinvara, Co Galway.  
Tel: 061 360788  
Email: [reservations@shannonheritage.com](mailto:reservations@shannonheritage.com)  
[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)

Dunguaire Castle is situated on the southern shore of Galway Bay, in the pretty village of Kinvara. The restored castle gives an insight into the lifestyle of the people who lived here from 1520 to modern times. By night the castle hosts banquets comprising a delicious four course dinner with wine in a truly intimate setting. The castle entertainers will enthral you with extracts from the works of the great Irish literary writers – Yeats, Shaw, O'Casey and Synge. Reservations are necessary for the banquets.

**Open:** End of April to September. 10.00 – 17.00. Last admission at 16.30.

\*opening times may be subject to change.

**Admission:** Adult: €6, Child: €3.40, Senior/Student: €3.50.

Family tickets available.



## Dunsandle Castle & Woods

F5 ↑↑↑

Kiltullagh, Athenry, Co. Galway.  
Tel: 091 503865  
Email: [info@dunsandlecastle.com](mailto:info@dunsandlecastle.com)  
[www.dunsandlecastle.com](http://www.dunsandlecastle.com)  
Sat Nav: N53.244457 W8.64679

A fine example of a Fifteenth Century Castle situated on an elevated site and surrounded by woodland. Carefully restored, the Castle feels close to what it was centuries ago. Helpful, friendly guides provide guests with a fascinating, interactive tour suitable for all ages. Peaceful woodland walks enhance the experience.

**Open:** 11.00 – 17.00, July, August and September.

**Admission:** Adult: €6.50, Students/OAP: €4.00, Child: €3.50 (under 2's go free).



## Galway Atlantaquaria

F4 ↑↑↑

The Promenade, Salthill, Galway.  
Tel: 091 585100  
Email: [marketing@nationalaquarium.ie](mailto:marketing@nationalaquarium.ie)  
[www.nationalaquarium.ie](http://www.nationalaquarium.ie)

Galway Atlantaquaria, National Aquarium of Ireland is home to the country's largest display of aquatic life. With over 150 species of fish and invertebrates in five hundred tonnes of water the exhibits provide an insight into native marine and freshwater habitats. The Ocean Tank is currently home to Valentine, the only White Skate on public display in the world. A unique and interesting experience for people of all ages and backgrounds, children in particular love the chance to touch our spider crabs and starfish and get up close and personal with our friendly rays.

**Open:** Daily 10.00 – 18.00. Season: Open all year.

**Admission:** Adult: €10.25, Child: €6.25, Senior/Student: €7, Family (2 adults & 2 children): €29, Family (1 adult & 2 children): €20. Group discount 10% for 8 or more people. Children U-3 free of charge. Tickets valid all day.

### ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Galway City Museum

E4

Spanish Parade, Galway City.  
Tel: 091 532 460  
Email: [museum@galwaycity.ie](mailto:museum@galwaycity.ie)  
[www.galwaycitymuseum.ie](http://www.galwaycitymuseum.ie)

Galway City Museum is situated behind the famous Spanish Arch, overlooking the River Corrib and the ancient Claddagh village. The Museum houses exhibitions which explore aspects of the archeology, history and heritage of Galway City and its people.

**Open:** Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00 – 17.00. Season: Open all year.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



## Glengowla Silver & Lead Mines

E3

Oughterard, Connemara, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 552021/091 552360/  
087 2529850  
Email: [glengowlamines@eircom.net](mailto:glengowlamines@eircom.net)  
[www.glengowlamines.com](http://www.glengowlamines.com)

Historic 19th Century silver and lead mine with guided underground tours every 20 minutes. Last tour 17.30. A pleasurable experience is a unique heritage attraction - the only one of its kind in the country. Try your hand at gold panning - what you find you keep! There's also a heritage walk on the old Galway/Clifden Railway line for approx. 1.5km. Glengowla Mines is located 3km west of Oughterard village, just off the N59 Galway/Clifden road, 20 minutes drive from Galway City.

**Open:** Daily 10.00 – 18.00. Season: mid-March to November.

**Admission:** Adult: €10, Child: €4, Senior: €9.50, Student: €9, Family: €24. Group rates on request.



## Kiltartan Gregory Museum

F4

Kiltartan Cross, Gort, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 632346/631069  
Email: [delourdesfahy@gmail.com](mailto:delourdesfahy@gmail.com)  
[www.gortonline.com](http://www.gortonline.com)

An award-winning museum, originally an old schoolhouse built on the instructions of Sir William Gregory, including works of Lady Gregory, Yeats, local history, artefacts, photos and memorabilia. The museum specialises in local lore and includes an old Irish classroom which has proved invariably popular with visitors. Ideal location for presenting Strands of the Primary School Curriculum. The warm friendly atmosphere is invariably appreciated by visitors.

**Open:** Weekdays 11.00 – 17.00. Sunday 13.00 – 17.00.

June to August: Daily. May & September: Sunday only, 13.00 – 17.00.

Open at other times by appointment.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Group: €2.50 per person, Family: €8.



## Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Gardens

D1

Kylemore, Connemara, Co Galway.  
Tel: 095 52001  
Email: [bookings@kylemoreabbeytourism.ie](mailto:bookings@kylemoreabbeytourism.ie)  
[www.kylemoreabbeytourism.ie](http://www.kylemoreabbeytourism.ie)  
Sat Nav: 53.5618, -9.8880.

Discover what makes Kylemore Abbey the no.1 visitor attraction in the west of Ireland. Experience the Victorian atmosphere of the restored rooms of the Abbey and Head Gardener's house. Explore the 6 acre Victorian walled garden, gothic church, nature trails and the newly opened woodland walks. Find the perfect gift at the craft shop. Sample delicious food in the café. Relax at the tea rooms by the walled garden and enjoy the breathtaking views over the Connemara landscape.

**Open:** All year round. 7 days a week. Summer: mid-March to November, 09.30 – 17.30. (July & August 9.00 – 19.00).

Winter: November to mid-March, 10.00 – 16.30.

**Admission:** Adult: €12, Senior €9, Student: €8.50, Child aged 10 years and under: Free of charge. Family (2 adults & 2 children – 10+ yrs): €32.50, Family (2 adults & 2 children – U-10 yrs): €24.

Group rates on request. Free car parking.

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Leenane Sheep & Wool Centre

D2

Leenane Sheep & Wool Centre.  
Leenane, Co Galway.  
Tel: 095 42323  
Email: leenane@eircom.net  
www.sheepandwoolcentre.com

Unique in Ireland for its focus on the history of sheep and wool handcrafts with daily demonstrations in carding, spinning and weaving. Live breeds of sheep are on display outdoors. Sheep shearing demonstrations in peak season. A short introductory DVD is available in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. A visit to the museum will answer all your woolly or sheepish questions! An Tobar Café has a selection of homemade food and the gift shop stocks everything from knitting yarn and ceramics to woollens and souvenirs.

**Open:** 17th March to 31st October. March: 10.00 – 17.00.

April to October: 10.00 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €5. Senior/Student: €4. Pre-booking essential for groups.



## Leisureland

F4

Salthill, Galway City.  
Tel: 091 521445  
Email: leisureland@galwaycity.ie  
www.leisureland.ie

Enjoy a fun day out for all the family at

Leisureland in Salthill. The three swimming pools are open all year round. Test your mettle on the thrilling 65m Waterslide! Become a pirate on the Misty Dawn. Enjoy the cool new inflatable obstacle course and fun on the paddle boats. Relax in BB's Coffee and Muffins poolside restaurant and enjoy their delicious freshly baked produce. Come rain or shine Leisureland is a great place to spend an afternoon. Outdoor amusement park and mini-golf course open seasonally.

**Open:** Daily. Open all year. Extended opening hours during summer season - contact 091 521455 or visit the website for details. Outdoor amusement park open seasonally.

**Admission:** Adult swim: €7, Child swim: €4.80/€6.50, Family (1 adult & 3 children): €16.60/€22.00, Family (2 adults & 2 children): €18.80/€22.00. Over 65/Student €4.80, Group €4 per child in a group of 10 or more. Adult gym & swim €10. Over 65/Student gym & swim: €8.

## The West Counties Pocket Guide



## Loughwell Farm Park

E3

Loughwell, Moycullen, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 868631  
Email: info@loughwellfarmpark.ie  
www.loughwellfarmpark.ie

Recently opened near Moycullen, the

farm is fast becoming a favourite attraction for families. We have just launched the amazing new barrel train for children and adults - a fantastic and fun way to see the farm. Come and play with the new happy hopperz - a favourite with little kids. The brand new didi cars are also great fun for young and old. We now also have the biggest inflatable slide we have ever seen. Loughwell Farm Park is a firm favourite for children's birthday parties or any family occasion.

**Open:** Saturday & Sunday from Sept to May with extra opening times at Christmas and school holidays. Open seven days in June/July/August from 11.00 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Child: €10, Adult: €5.



## Ocean & Country Visitor Centre D1

Derryinver, Letterfrack, Co Galway.  
Tel: 095 43473/086 1991988

Ireland's only glass-bottom boat tours – purpose built to the highest safety standards to operate in one of Europe's

most scenic and well-protected harbours. An imaginative and informative exhibition of Connemara's marine heritage. Explore the seaside and enjoy panoramic views of the Connemara coast and mountains, Maritime Museum, sightseeing cruises, the Sea Angling Centre and a craft shop will also contribute to an enjoyable day out.

**Open:** Daily 10.00 – 18.00. March to November.



## Patrick Pearse's Cottage (Teach an Phiarsaigh)

E2

Inbhear, near Rosmuc Village, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 574292  
Email: tanphiarsaigh@opw.ie  
www.heritageireland.ie

This small restored cottage overlooking the breathtaking lakes and mountains of Connemara was once used by Patrick Pearse (1879-1916), leader of the 1916 Rising, as a summer residence and a summer school for his pupils from St Enda's in Dublin. The interior although burned during the War of Independence, has been restored and now houses an exhibition and a number of mementoes of Pearse's life.

For opening times and admission, please contact Patrick Pearse's Cottage directly.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Portumna Castle & Gardens F6 ↑↑↑

Portumna, Co Galway.  
Tel: 090 9741658  
Email: portumnacastle@opw.ie  
www.heritageireland.ie

This great semi-fortified house at Portumna was built prior to 1618 by Richard Burke (de Burgo), 4th Earl of

Clanrickard. The castle & gardens, including the 17th Century walled kitchen garden, are surrounded by the town's main attractions – Lough Derg, the Shannon River and Portumna Forest Park. Enjoy the space and freedom of the beautiful forest park and lakeside walks.

**Open:** April 21st to Sept 28th, 09.30 – 18.00.

Sept 30th to October 31st, weekends only (Fri/Sat/Sun) 09.30 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3, Child/Student: €1, Senior/Group: €2, Family: €8.

Free guided tours with admission ticket.



## Pure Skill – Fusion of Sport E4 ♿ ↑↑↑

Galway West Retail Park,  
Knocknacarra, Galway City.  
Tel: 091 515510  
Email: info@pureskill.ie  
www.pureskill.ie  
Sat Nav: Latitude 53.2713 + Longitude 9.101

Pure Skill – Fusion of Sport is Ireland's newest and unique indoor sports and entertainment complex, located minutes from Galway City centre. Complete the famous circuit with 10 of the most popular sports in the world, including baseball, soccer, basketball, rugby, tennis, hurling, golf, cricket and Gaelic football completing a scorecard out of a possible 100 points! Over an hour of entertainment, great fun for all the family! So go on, take the Pure Skill Challenge today! Also available are visual sports systems, surf simulators and much more. Ages 8+.

**Open:** Daily. April to August (11.00 – 20.30).

September to March (12.00 – 20.30).

**Admission:** Mon – Sun: Adult: €15, Child: €12.

Family rates are €12pp. Booking required for groups of 10 or more.



## Roundstone Music and Craft Shop E1 ♿ ↑↑↑

The Monastery, Killeen Park, Roundstone,  
Co Galway.

Tel: 095 35808

Email: bodhran@iol.ie

www.bodhran.com

Bodhrán making within the walls of an old Franciscan Monastery in the quaint fishing village of Roundstone. See a fine craftsman at work where bodhrán maker, Malachy Kearns, or 'Malachy Bodhrán' as he is better known, manufactures bodhráns in a traditional manner. Alongside the workshop are a small folk museum and the quaint absorbing 'Craftsman's craft shop' & coffee shop. Bodhráns are hand painted with Celtic designs and family crests.

**Open:** Daily 10.15 – 18.00 in Summer. Closed Sunday from November to March.

Season: Open all year.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



## The Nora Barnacle House Museum E4

Bowling Green, Galway City.

Tel: 087 9017691

Email: sheilalgallagher@gmail.com

The tiny house in Bowling Green was the home of Nora Barnacle who married world famous writer, James Joyce. This auburn-haired independent woman was the perfect foil for one of literature's most influential writers. Joyce visited this house and wrote poems and articles about the city and people of Galway. The Nora Barnacle House is a small private museum, faithfully restored to its former character. It is open to the public during the summer months, with guides available to show you around.

**Open:** Normally Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00 – 17.00. Closed from 13.00 – 14.00.

Check window for details of opening times. Season: 1st June to 15th September.

**Admission:** €2.50.

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Thoor Ballylee F4

Gort, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 631436  
Email: [thoorballylee@failteireland.ie](mailto:thoorballylee@failteireland.ie)  
[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

W.B Yeats, Nobel Prize winner, poet and Senator, bought this ancient Norman Tower and adjoining cottages in 1917.

Thoor Ballylee tells the story of the life and times of W.B. Yeats via an audio-visual presentation available in seven languages. Enjoy the lovely riverside walk and picnic area on the grounds and the tower rooftop provides one of the best views in the county. The Tower inspired two of his greatest books of poetry "The Tower" & "The Winding Stair".

Thoor Ballylee is presently closed for renovations. Please contact Galway Discover Ireland Centre, Tel: 091 537700 for further information.



## Turoe Pet Farm & Leisure Park F5

Bullaun, Loughrea, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 841580  
Email: [turoefarm@esatclear.ie](mailto:turoefarm@esatclear.ie)  
[www.turoepetfarm.com](http://www.turoepetfarm.com)

Feed the animals as you stroll down the all-weather nature trail. Enjoy the two outdoor playgrounds and football pitch. Enjoy the thrill's of Ireland's only indoor 'Inflatable City' with its 25ft, 12ft and 6ft slides. Have a go in 'Jungle Town' with its ball pond, tunnel, slides, rope ladder, bouncing castle etc... 'Country Kitchen' serves hot food. Coffee shop serving refreshments, ices, etc. Picnics welcome. Theme weeks at Easter, Halloween & Christmas.

**Open:** Summer: mid-May to 31st August, Daily 10.00 – 19.00. Winter: September to mid-May, weekends & bank holidays only. 13.00 – 18.00. Extra opening for Easter, Halloween & Christmas terms – contact for opening times.

**Admission:** Adult: €6, Child: €12. Senior/Student: €5, Group rate €12 per child includes guided tour.

### ACTIVITIES



DUNSANDLE CASTLE & WOODS, KILTULLAGH, ATHENRY





44 GALWAY CATHEDRAL, GALWAY CITY



CLONFERT CATHEDRAL 45

### CATHEDRALS, CHURCHES & POINTS OF INTEREST

#### **Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and Saint Nicholas E4**

Galway City. Tel: 091 563577, [www.galwaycathedral.org](http://www.galwaycathedral.org)

The huge octagonal dome of Galway Cathedral towers over Nuns Island and is more reminiscent of Florence than the west of Ireland. It was the last major stone church built in Ireland (1957 – 1965) and is located on the site of the Old Galway Goal. Galway Cathedral boasts an impressive variety of interior art including statues, mosaics and stained glass. Its architecture and design are truly eclectic.

#### **St. Nicholas Collegiate Church E4**

Galway City. Tel: 091 564648, [www.galway1.ie](http://www.galway1.ie)

Founded in 1320, this Church remains one of the best-preserved of Ireland's medieval town churches featuring engaging gargoyles and exterior carvings of dragons. The mermaid figure is fitting in a church dedicated to the patron saint of mariners.

#### **Lynch's Castle E4**

Galway City. Tel: 091 567041.

A 12th Century castle which was extensively altered in 1966 when it was converted into a bank. The exterior preserves some of the few remaining Irish gargoyles and the arms of Henry VII, the Lynch family and the Fitzgerald's of Kildare. The stonework detailing around the windows is of very good quality and on the ground floor, historical material relating to the castle is on display.

#### **Clonfert Cathedral F5**

Near Ballinasloe, Co Galway.

In the 6th Century St. Brendan the Navigator founded a monastery in Clonfert. Today, Clonfert Cathedral is world-famous for its finely carved Romanesque style doorway, dating from 1200.

#### **Na Seacht Teampaill (The Seven Churches) F2**

Inis Mór, Aran Islands, Co Galway. Tel: 099 61263 (Aran Tourist Office).

This is the finest example of a 12th Century monastic settlement. All that remains today is the ruins of two small churches, Teampaill Bheacáin and Teampaill an Phoill, and some interesting early grave-stones and cross-inscribed slabs, and the broken pieces of three impressive Celtic crosses.

#### **Church of Ireland Cathedral of St. Mary D2** Tuam, Co Galway.

For access to church. Tel: Jarlath Canney 087 4121201.

The chancel and magnificent Hiberno-Romanesque arch, of a previous cathedral that was destroyed, survived and are now incorporated in St. Marys erected for the Church of Ireland between 1861 and 1878.

#### **St. Brendan's Cathedral F5** Loughrea, Co Galway. Tel: 091 841212.

St. Brendan's Cathedral is arguably one of the country's greatest contributions to European art of the twentieth century and is an absolute must for anyone interested in modern Irish stained glass. Its only unusual architectural features are its double transepts but it is the decoration of the church interior that makes a visit such an enriching and spiritual experience.

#### **The Promenade (Walkway) F4** Salthill, Galway City.

This walkway begins at Wolfe Tone Bridge, Galway City and continues for 4km with the fabulous vista of Galway Bay on your left, through Salthill village and on to the terminus of the walk at Blackrock. Local folklore has it, that you have not completed the walk unless you kick the wall at the end of 'The Prom' at Blackrock.

#### **Spanish Arch E4** Galway City.

In front of Spanish Arch is an open quayside area where once French and Spanish galleons docked with cargoes of wines, silks and other cargo. Later this area was a fish market where local boatmen sold their catch in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Local legend also has it that the Spanish Arch was the last point of land contact for Christopher Columbus prior to discovering America. The Columbus Sculpture was presented to the City of Galway by the City of Genoa on the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

#### **The Claddagh Village E4** Galway City.

A visit to Galway City just isn't complete without a stroll through the Claddagh seafront on the bank opposite the Spanish Arch. The thatched cottages which were once home to the city's fisherman and their families are long gone, but the black hulls of currachs, Galway Hookers and Púcéans still contrast with the white swans of the Claddagh Basin. Nearby is the Dominican Church and its treasure, the 17th Century wooden statue known as 'Our Lady of Galway'. The world famous Claddagh ring owes its origins to this area of Galway.

## ACTIVITIES



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THE GALWAY HOOKER

### ART GALLERIES/MUSEUMS

#### **Ard Bia Art Space E4**

Spanish Arch, Galway City. Tel: 091 561114. Email: ardbia@gmail.com  
An art space located at the Ard Bia café/restaurant.

#### **Art Essence Gallery E4**

Unit 7, Liosbaun Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway.  
Tel: 091 764770/087 6731199.

Email: info@artessence.ie, www.artessence.ie

This studio and gallery features an eclectic mix of fine art paintings and prints by Denise and a small stable of emerging local talents, including the much sought after paintings by Joan Hogan.

#### **Kenny's Art Gallery E4**

Unit 13 – 18 Liosbaun Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway.  
Tel: 091 709362, Email: bindery@kennys.ie, www.kennys.ie

The Kenny Gallery specialise in contemporary Irish art, exhibits the work of 19th and 20th Century artists, and frequently hosts exhibitions by visiting artists from Europe and the United States.

#### **Stronach Gallery E2**

Fermoye Lodge, Costello, Connemara, Co Galway.  
Tel: 091 786111/087 6666633.

Email: info@stronachgallery.com, www.stronachgallery.com

Stronach Gallery is delighted to show art lovers an eclectic collection of contemporary fine art.

#### **The White Room Gallery E4**

Liosbaun Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway City.

Tel: 091 757699, Email: info@whiteroom.ie, www.whiteroom.ie

An exhibition from local, national and international artists... always promises to impress any visitor to the gallery.



FAHY BAY, NORTH CONNEMARA

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### LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

#### **Atlantic Language School E4**

Fairgreen House, Fairgreen Road, Galway City.  
Tel: 091 566053. Email: info@atlanticianguage.com  
www.atlanticianguage.com  
Contact: John Daly.

#### **Bridge Mills Galway Language Centre E4**

The Bridge Mills, Bridge Street, Galway City.  
Tel: 091 566468. Email: info@galwaylanguage.com  
www.galwaylanguage.com  
Contact: Patrick Creed.

#### **English Language Centre National University of Ireland E4**

NUI Galway, University Road, Galway City.  
Tel: 091 492264. Email: englishlanguage@nuigalway.ie  
www.nuigalway.ie/englishlanguage  
Contact: Olivia McBride.

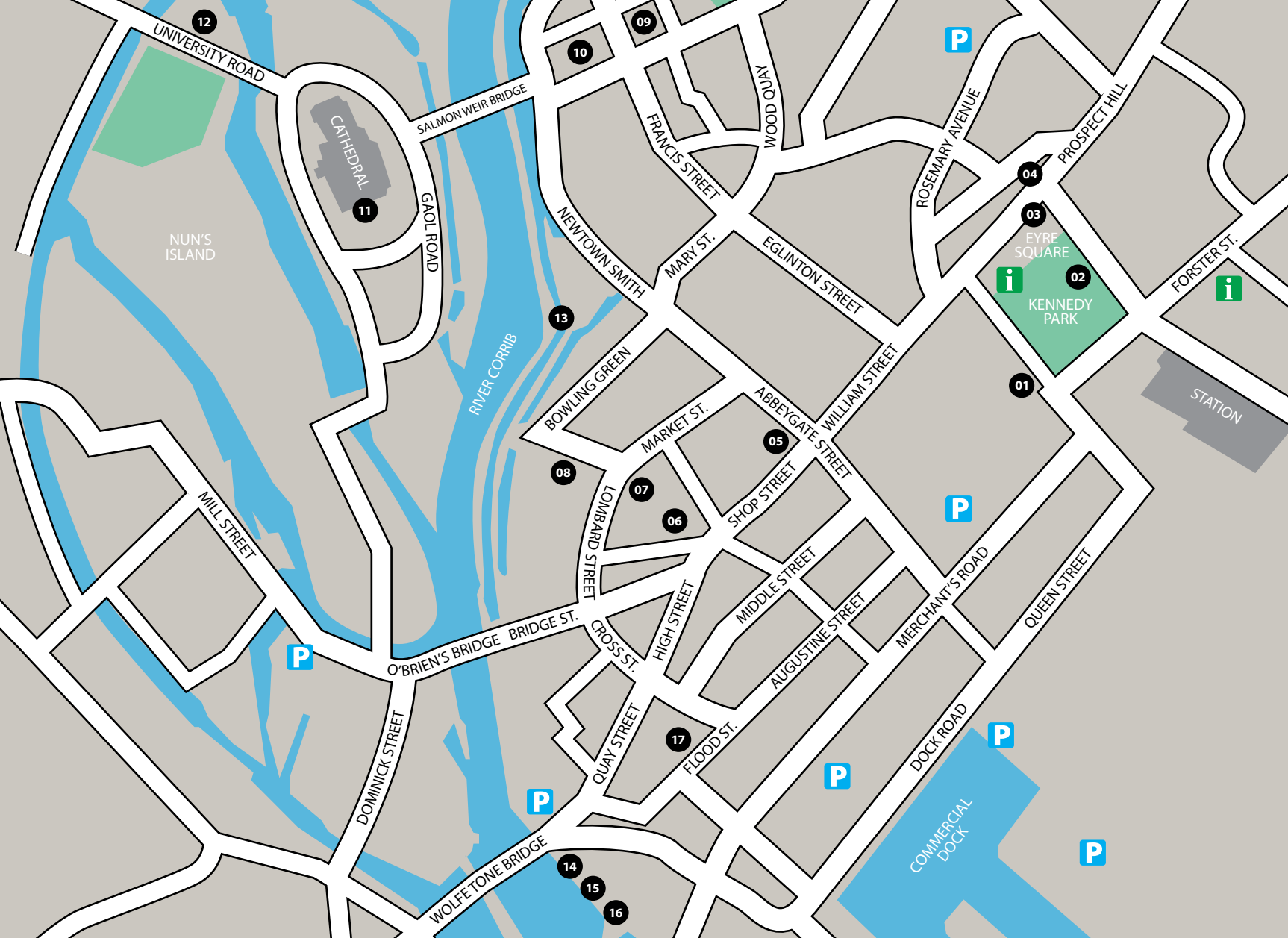
#### **Galway Cultural Institute F4**

GCI House, Salthill, Galway City.  
Tel: 091 863100. Email: info@gci.ie  
www.gci.ie  
Contact: Celestine Rowland.

#### **Shannonside Language Centre Portumna F6**

Ballinderry, Nenagh, Co Tipperary.  
Tel: 067 22300. Email: slcenglish@eircom.net  
www.shannonside.org  
Contact: Jeremy Castle.

### ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

Galway City

- 01 Medieval Walls
- 02 JFK Bust
- 03 Browne Doorway
- 04 Statue of Liam Mellows
- 05 Lynch's Castle
- 06 St. Nicholas Church
- 07 Lynch's Window
- 08 Nora Barnacle's House
- 09 Town Hall Theatre
- 10 Court House
- 11 Cathedral
- 12 N.U.I.G.
- 13 River Corrib Walk
- 14 Christopher Columbus Statue
- 15 Spanish Arch
- 16 Museum
- 17 Red Earl's Hall





LIMERICK CITY AT NIGHT

# Limerick

**Few Irish destinations offer the magical blend of City and County quite like Limerick!**

With a charter older than that of London, there is plenty of history to absorb in this fine riverside city; from the medieval glories of King's Island, home to the magnificent King John's Castle and St. Mary's Cathedral; to the Georgian House and Garden, the Limerick Museum and the nearby Hunt Museum. Limerick's proud heritage sits comfortably alongside pedestrian plazas lined with colourful boutiques and galleries, upmarket hotels, wonderful old pubs and legendary nightclubs, the newly developed Milk Market and Limerick's many award-winning restaurants and cafes.

In contrast to the buzz of the City, Limerick County offers a diversity of breathtaking landscapes, from rich, rolling farmland, to unspoilt mountain walks and forest parks. County Limerick is also home to a number of picturesque villages and towns full of character, colour and charm; including the Walled Town of Kilmallock, Adare, also known as "the prettiest village in Ireland", Foynes and Newcastle West.

But what really sets Limerick apart from other destinations in Ireland is its tremendous passion for sport. Limerick is, without question one serious sports place, so it is little wonder that Limerick has been awarded the coveted title of European City of Sport 2011. Limerick is home to some of the very best stadia and sporting infrastructure in Ireland including Thomond Park Stadium, the spiritual home of Irish rugby, The Gaelic Grounds, the University of Limerick Arena, Limerick Racecourse and the newly developed Limerick Greyhound Stadium. So make sure you get in on the sporting action when you come to town!

Discover Limerick and let it surprise you!



## ACTIVITIES



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NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK 53

## Limerick's towns and villages

Limerick's towns and villages are brimful of warm, witty and welcoming locals – its many historic, cultural and architectural gems are just an added bonus!

**Adare I4** with its broad main street lined with thatched houses and colourful doors, Adare has long been a much-admired stopping place for tourists. It is often referred to as 'Ireland's Prettiest Village'. Must see features of Adare are its three medieval abbeys, a 13th century castle and the Adare Heritage Centre, which incorporates some delightful craft and gift shops and an absorbing historic display recounting Adare's heritage.

**Askeaton H4** This medieval village of (on the scenic N69 driving route) was once a stronghold of the Anglo-Norman Earls of Desmond. Today, the impressive ruins of Askeaton Castle dominate the town. Askeaton's Hellfire Club dating back to the 17th Century and the ruins of the well preserved 14th Century Franciscan Friary are also special features of the village.

**Croom I5** The famous 5 line bawdy rhyme form, known as a limerick, was first devised here by 18th Century Maigue poets as they penned light hearted jibes and drinking songs to amuse themselves.

**Foynes H4** Relive the pioneering days of transatlantic aviation in the Foynes Flying Boat Museum. Irish coffee was invented here by barman Joe Sheridan for the cold, weary travellers of the flying boat days.

**Bruff I5** See the habitat and artefacts of Neolithic Man in Lough Gur, just outside Bruff one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites.

**Kilcornan H4** Here you will find some fantastic family fun activities to keep you and your little ones entertained. Enjoy the great outdoors in the vast Curraghchase Forest Park consisting of some 600 acres of forest. Curraghchase was once the estate of the De Vere family and is known for its nature walks, ornamental gardens, arboretum and camping park.

**Kilmallock I5** named after an early 7th Century saint is known as the crossroads of Munster. The Walled Town's rich architectural heritage is evident in its many national monuments, an interesting museum and history trail. The town is close to the Ballyhoura Mountain Biking Trails, the largest trail network of its kind in Ireland and an ideal place to get out biking or walking.

**Newcastle West I4** is the County town of County Limerick and well worth a visit. The town is a shopper's delight with some fabulous boutiques and shops and is also home to the Desmond Banqueting Hall, an imposing two storey structure used by the Earls of Desmond for banqueting and entertainment.

**Ardagh village I4** near Newcastle West is the site of the discovery of the exquisitely worked 8th century Ardagh Chalice now on display in the National Museum of Ireland

**Murroe H5** to the east of the County is home to the Benedictine Monks of Glenstal Abbey, famed for their Gregorian chant.

**Castleconnell H5** a picturesque village on the River Shannon and it is home to well stocked fishing waters.

For more information on Limerick's towns and villages, visit our website  
[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## King John's Castle H5

Nicholas Street, Limerick City.  
Tel: 061 411201  
www.shannonheritage.com  
Sat Nav: 52.66974, -8.62545

King John's Castle is a 13th century Castle on 'King's Island' in the heart of medieval Limerick City. The Castle

overlooks the majestic River Shannon offering wonderful views of the area. Explore 800 years of history brought to life in the imaginative historical exhibition, excavated pre-Norman houses, fortifications, siege mines and battlement walks.

**Open:** All year round. 10.00 – 16.30. Last Admission 15.30. Closed: Dec 24th / 25th/26th. Reservations not necessary.

**Admission:** Adult: €9, Child: €5.50, Student/ OAP: €6.65, Family Ticket (2 Adults + 2 Children): €20.60.



## The Hunt Museum H5

Rutland Street, Limerick City.  
Tel: 061 312833  
Email: info@huntmuseum.com  
www.huntmuseum.com  
Sat Nav: 52.666233, -8.6240959

The Hunt Museum houses the important art collection of the late John and

Gertrude Hunt, gifted to the people of Ireland and now housed in the former Custom House of Limerick - a handsome riverside building dating to the Eighteenth century. The diverse and personal collection offers great variety to the visitor with works from Ancient Greece and Rome through to a programme of contemporary art, with drawings by Renoir, Gauguin and Henry Moore in between. The Museum operates a rolling programme of exhibitions which reflects its engaging outreach programme and also art and decorative exhibitions annually of national significance.

**Open:** Monday to Saturday 10.00 – 17.00, Sunday and Public Holidays 14.00 – 17.00 Closed: New Year's Day (January 1), Good Friday, Christmas Day (December 25), St. Stephen's Day (December 26).

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Adult Group: €4, Senior/3rd level student €3.50, Family €12.50, Child: €2.50. Unemployed: Free Admission.



## Foynes Flying Boat Museum H4

Foynes, Co. Limerick.  
Tel: 069 65416  
Email: info@flyingboatmuseum.com  
www.flyingboatmuseum.com  
Sat Nav: 52.611309, -9.1090822

The Foynes Flying Boat Museum, housed in the original terminal building in Foynes, Co. Limerick, recalls that nostalgic era when Foynes became the centre of the aviation world from 1939 to 1945. The Museum has a comprehensive range of exhibits and graphic illustrations, where you can learn about the history of the flying boats in an authentic 1940's cinema, featuring the award winning film 'Atlantic Conquest'. The Museum also showcases the original Terminal Building, Radio and Weather Room, complete with transmitters, receivers and Morse code equipment.

**Open:** Daily: 09.00 - 17.00, March 31st – October 31st, last admission 1 hour before closing.

**Admission:** Adults: €9, Senior/Student: €7, Children under 14: €5, Children under 5: Free of charge.  
Family Ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children): €25.



## Thomond Park Stadium, Museum and Tours H5

Cratloe Road, Limerick City.  
Tel: 061 421101  
Email: info@thomondpark.ie  
www.thomondpark.ie  
Sat Nav: 52.6735198, -8.6446095

The newly redeveloped stadium is not

only where all Munster's Heineken Cup home matches are played but also incorporates a state of the art interactive museum and guided stadium tour which is a real treat for all rugby fans. Take in the history and story of Munster's famous wins, including their two Heineken Cup wins in 2006 and 2008, and their win over the mighty All Blacks in 1978.

**Open:** Both walk in and bookings are welcome. Booking is highly recommended in advance in order to avoid disappointment. Tours operate seven days a week (pre-booking is essential weekends). Tour Times (Monday to Friday): 10.30, Noon, 14.30, 15.45 \*Opening Times are subject to change.

**Admission:** Museum Visit and Film: Adult: €7, OAP: €6, Child: €5, Family Package (2 Adults & 2 Children): €20. Stadium Tour (Inc. Museum Visit and Film) Adult: €12, OAP: €8, Child: €10, Family Package (2 Adults & 2 Children): €35. \*Tours are not available on the day before match days or on match days due to operational requirements.

## The West Counties Pocket Guide

### ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Adare Heritage Centre 14

Adare Heritage Centre,  
Adare Village, Co. Limerick.  
Tel: 061 396666  
Email: [info@adareheritagecentre.ie](mailto:info@adareheritagecentre.ie)  
[www.adareheritagecentre.ie](http://www.adareheritagecentre.ie)  
Sat Nav: 52.5646, -8.7893

Why not step back in time and take a journey through the historical exhibition (based in the Adare Heritage Centre), a reconstruction of Adare's unique past from the arrival of the Norman's to the ancient abbeys of the middle-ages. In addition to the historical exhibition, the Heritage Centre is home to a number of gift outlets, Adare's Tourist Information Office, Adare Library and the Dovecot Restaurant.

**Open:** 9.00 – 18.00 daily, some units operate on a seasonal basis.

**Admission:** To Historic Exhibition: Adult: €4.50, Group Rate: €4, OAP's/Student: €3.50. To Castle: Adult: €6, OAPS: €5, Students and Children: €5. Combined Exhibit and Castle ticket: €8.



## Lough Gur Visitor Centre 15

Lough Visitor Centre, near Bruff,  
Co. Limerick.  
Tel: 061 360788  
Email: [reservations@shannonheritage.com](mailto:reservations@shannonheritage.com)  
[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)  
Sat Nav: 52.5131783, -8.5227138

Lough Gur is one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites. You will be captivated by the beauty, charm and tranquillity of this ancient place. The visitor centre tells the story of Pre-Celtic Ireland dating back to 5,000 BC.

**Open:** May – August 31st, 10.30 – 17.00. Open daily last admission 16.30pm (opening times may be subject to change).

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Child: €3, OAP/Student: €3.30, Family Ticket (2 Adults + 2 Children): €14, Group Rates available on request.



## Treaty Stone H5

O'Callaghan Strand,  
Limerick City.  
Sat Nav: 52.6670398, -8.6287308

The Treaty of Limerick concluded the Williamite War in Ireland between the Jacobites and the supporters of William of Orange, in addition to the Siege of Limerick. The Treaty consisted of two accords which were signed on 3rd of October 1691. Because of the Treaty, Limerick is sometimes known as the Treaty City.



## St. Mary's Cathedral H5

Bridge Street, Limerick City.  
Tel: 061 310293  
Sat Nav: 52.6679182, -8.6242568

Founded in 1168 on the site of a palace donated by Donal Mor O'Brien, King of Munster, St. Mary's Church of Ireland Cathedral is the oldest and most historic building in daily use in Limerick. If the stones of this Cathedral could only talk and tell us what has happened here over the centuries, what a story they would tell!

**Open:** 9.30 – 16.30pm, Mon – Fri. Services only on Sundays.

**Admission:** Donation of €2 accepted.

### ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## The Georgian House and Garden H5

No. 2, Pery Square, Limerick City.  
Tel: 061 314130  
Email: [info@limerickcivictrust.ie](mailto:info@limerickcivictrust.ie)  
[www.limerickcivictrust.ie](http://www.limerickcivictrust.ie)  
Sat Nav: 52.658265, -8.6296856

The Georgian House is one of a terrace of six houses built c.1830 by the Pery

Square Tontine Company. This terrace is widely regarded as being the best example of late Georgian Architecture in Limerick and probably in Ireland.

**Open:** Monday to Friday: 10.00am to 16.00. Fridays closes at 15.30pm  
Weekends by appointment.

**Admission:** Adult: €6, Seniors, Students and Children: €4,  
Family (2 Adults+3 Children): €16, Children under 5: Free of charge.



## Limerick City Museum H5

Nicholas Street, Limerick City.  
Tel: 061 417826  
[www.limerickcity.ie/museum](http://www.limerickcity.ie/museum)

The Museum's collection illustrates the history of Limerick and its people. Its displays include archaeological artefacts, Limerick silver, Limerick lace, examples of

local printing, exhibits on the struggle for independence and much more.

**Open:** Tues - Sat 10.00 – 13.00 and 14.15 to 17.00.

Closed Sundays, Mondays and Saturdays of Bank Holiday Weekends.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



KING JOHNS CASTLE, CO. LIMERICK

## ACTIVITIES

## MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS

**DeValera Museum Bruree I5** Co. Limerick. Tel: 063 90900.

The Museum tells the story of the late President Eamon deValera and of the area which formed his character.

**Desmond Banqueting Hall I4** The Square, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 069 77408. An imposing two storey structure used by the Earls of Desmond for banqueting and entertainment.

**The Bishops Palace H5** Church Street, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 313399. [www.limerickcivictrust.ie](http://www.limerickcivictrust.ie) Adjacent to King John's Castle, this is the restored home of former Protestant Bishops of Limerick. The Palace has a classical facade and is related to the English Palladian style.

**Limerick Masonic Centre H5** Castle Street, Limerick City.

[www.freemasonsnorthmunster.com](http://www.freemasonsnorthmunster.com)

The Masonic Centre deals with the history of the Freemasons of North Munster.

**Palatine Heritage Centre I4** The Old Railway Buildings, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 069 63511. The Irish Palatine Heritage Centre houses an exhibition that seeks to represent in detail the Irish Palatine experience ranging from their German places of origin, to their colonisation and settlement in Ireland.

## ARTS AND CULTURAL VENUES

**Belltable Arts Centre H5** 36 Cecil Street, Limerick City.

Tel: 061 315 871. [www.belltable.ie](http://www.belltable.ie) Offering a comprehensive programme of theatre, cinema, dance, music, visual art & performance.

**Friar's Gate Theatre I5** Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 063 98727. [www.friarsgate.com](http://www.friarsgate.com).

Is a theatre, concert & performance venue and a Visual Art and Exhibition space.

**Honey Fitz Theatre I5** Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 087 0852022. [www.loughgur.com/honey-fitz-theatre](http://www.loughgur.com/honey-fitz-theatre)

Theatre & performance space near the mystical Lough Gur.

**Limerick City Gallery of Art H5** Pery Square, Limerick City.

Tel: 061 310228. <http://gallery.limerick.ie/>

See the best of contemporary art through the changing exhibition programme and enjoy the extensive collection of Irish Art.

## GARDENS

Take a tour of the colourful blooms along **Limerick's Garden Trail** which includes a number of award-winning gardens. More information together with contact details, opening hours and prices can be found at: [www.limerickgardentrail.com](http://www.limerickgardentrail.com)

## NATURE AND WILDLIFE

**Curraghchase Forest Park H4** Kilcornan, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396349. [www.coillte.ie](http://www.coillte.ie)

The park covers 313 hectares of mixed woodlands, park and lake land which together provide a rich habitat for a diverse range of animals and plants.

**Stonehall Visitor Farm H4** Kilcornan, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 393940. [www.stonehallvisitorfarm.com](http://www.stonehallvisitorfarm.com)

Home to a wide variety of animals in a secure and pleasant setting.



CURRAGH CHASE FOREST PARK, KILCORNAN, CO. LIMERICK

## ACTIVITIES

**Buttercup Visitor Farm I5** Croom, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 397556. [www.buttecpfarm.ie](http://www.buttecpfarm.ie) Traditional farm with a large selection of farm animals including Cattle, Sheep, Pigs & Exotic Birds.

## GUIDED TOURS

**Limerick City Walking Tours H5** Tel: 061 317522.

Departs Limerick Tourist Information Office: Historic Limerick tour at 11.00am and Angela's Ashes tour at 2.30pm).

**Askeaton Walking Tours H4** Askeaton, Co. Limerick. Tel: 061 392149.

Contact: Anthony Sheehy, tours by appointment. Guided tours of Askeaton Friary, Desmond Castle and the Hellfire Club.

**Ballyhoura Walking Tours J5** Co. Limerick. Tel: 063 91300.

[www.ballyhouracountry.com](http://www.ballyhouracountry.com) Ballyhoura Country is a walker's paradise offering spectacular walking in ancient and unspoiled landscapes.

**Lough Gur Walking Tours I5** Tel: 061 385386.

Summer Guided Walking tours of Lough Gur.

**Limerick City Bus Tours H5** Tel: 061 317522.

Tours encompassing Limerick's most historic landmarks.

**Red Viking Bus Tours H5** Tel 061 334920. <http://redvikingtours.com/>

Guided bus tours of Limerick City and County.

**Barratt Tours – Bus Tours H5** Tel: 061 384700.

Offer a selection of day tours from Limerick departing from Limerick Tourist Information Office.

**Railtours Ireland H5** Tel: 01 8560045.

Day tours from Limerick to Bunratty, Cliffs of Moher and Galway.

## GENEALOGY

**Limerick Genealogy H5** c/o Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 496548. [www.limerickgenealogy.com](http://www.limerickgenealogy.com)

Provides a professional research service for those wishing to learn more about their ancestral roots in Limerick City and County.





ACTIVITIES

Limerick City

- 01 Thomond Park Stadium & Museum
- 02 Treaty Stone
- 03 King John's Castle
- 04 Bishop's Palace
- 05 St. Mary's Cathedral
- 06 The Hunt Museum
- 07 Arthur's Quay Park
- 08 Milk Market
- 09 St. John's Square
- 10 St. John's Cathedral
- 11 Colbert Station - Bus & Train
- 12 People's Park
- 13 Limerick City Gallery of Art
- 14 The Georgian House & Garden
- 15 Belltable Arts Centre



NATIONAL FAMINE MEMORIAL, MURRISK, CO. MAYO

# Mayo

Jutting proudly into the Atlantic Ocean, Mayo boasts a stunningly beautiful unspoilt environment with a magical attraction for visitors.

Cosmopolitan towns exude charm and personality, as welcoming as the Mayo people themselves. The standard and availability of accommodation is excellent and the range of visitor attractions and activities expands each year. Unique highlights include climbing **Croagh Patrick**, Ireland's holy mountain with the starkly beautiful **National Famine Memorial** at its foot and spectacular views of **Clew Bay** and its many islands from the summit.

History comes alive at the world famous **Céide Fields** in North Mayo where man's imprint on the land dates back 5,000 years. **Foxford Woollen Mills** offers a glimpse of the county's industrial past while **The National Museum of Ireland – Country Life** just outside **Castlebar**, houses the national folk life collection depicting everyday life in Ireland from the 1850s to the 1950's.

**Westport** is one of Ireland's most popular towns, a planned town and one of Ireland's tidiest towns as evidenced by its consistent positioning in the National Tidy Towns competition. **Westport House & Country Park** is a magnet for families while **Achill Island**, beloved of artists, has **Slievemore Deserted Village**, a poignant reminder of a darker past. **Knock Shrine** in the east of the county was the scene of a miraculous apparition in 1879 while charming **Cong** will forever be associated with Hollywood and **'The Quiet Man'** film.

Festivals are a part of life here, particularly in the summer months – will it be adventure sports, beach racing, arts, music or a children's festival?

Quite simply, Mayo is amazing!



## ACTIVITIES



66 BALLINA, CO. MAYO



THE OCTAGON, WESTPORT TOWN 67

## Mayo towns and villages

**Achill Island B1** is Ireland's largest offshore island and connected to the mainland by a bridge over the causeway – Achill Sound. The island has glorious cliff scenery, spectacular drives and walks, beautiful beaches and good sea and shore angling. Early Christian, Famine and related artefacts make a visit to the island a must for the discerning tourist. Achill in recent years has become a hub for all kinds of water based activities – surfing, kayaking, canoeing and kite surfing. The island is also a part of the Irish speaking Gaeltacht area.

**Ballina B3** is a busy industrial and commercial town on the estuary of the River Moy and is the cathedral town of the Catholic diocese of Killala. The town, the River Moy and the local area are world renowned in angling circles with tremendous lake, river and sea fishing all on offer. Anglers the world over dream of landing a salmon at the Ridge Pool located in the centre of the town. Ballina is also the birthplace of Mary Robinson who became the President of Ireland in December 1990, the first woman in Ireland to hold the office.

**Ballinrobe D3** on the River Robe is at the centre of south Mayo's Lake District, with the angling waters of Loughs Mask, Carra and Corrib all close by. The stained glass windows by the renowned stained glass artist Harry Clarke, in St. Mary's Catholic Church are worthy of perusal while a genealogical service is provided by the South Mayo Family Research Centre based in the town. Ballinrobe has good sports facilities, including an excellent golf course and a fine racecourse.

**Belmullet A1** in the centre of the Barony of Erris and lying between the two bays of Broadhaven to the north, and Blacksod to the south, is the ideal place for a sea angling holiday. Nearby to the west is the renowned championship links golf Course at Carne. The Mullet Peninsula is an area of natural beauty and charisma and is also famous for the exceptional quality of birdlife found there.

**Castlebar C3** located in the centre of the county, is the county town and administrative capital. Until the collapse of the 1798 Rising, Castlebar was the capital of the 'Provisional Republic of Connacht' – a memorial now stands at the entrance to the Mall in honour of the French soldiers who died on Irish soil that year. The pleasant tree-lined Mall, once a cricket pitch of Lord Lucan, is now a town park.

**Cong D3** is a picturesque village nestled between the two lakes of Corrib and Mask. Whether you are an angler, a walker, a historian, or simply a lover of nature, a visit to this village is something you will always treasure. Cong Abbey, built in the 12th Century, was commissioned at the same time as the Cross of Cong, a masterpiece of religious art. The classic film 'The Quiet Man' was shot on location in the Cong area in 1951. Even today one can retrace John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara's footsteps, by taking a guided tour of the 'Quiet Man' locations.

**Foxford B4** is a pleasant town on the River Moy and an angler's paradise. Foxford owes much to the Sisters of Charity who established the famous Foxford Woollen Mills in 1892. Admiral William Brown the founder of the Argentine Navy was born in Foxford. The 86km long Foxford Way, is one of Mayo's finest long distance waymarked walks.

**Knock Village C4** is best known for its religious associations. On 21st August 1879 Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist reportedly appeared at the gable of Knock Parish Church. From this miraculous occurrence Knock has grown to the status of an internationally recognised Marian Shrine. The village also boasts a fine Basilica and Knock Folk Museum which documents the story of the apparition and places it in the context of life at that time.

**Louisburgh C2** at the mouth of the Bunowen River is the focal point of a region of innate beauty and is endowed with a large number of fine Blue Flag beaches. The area is notable for angling, surfing, swimming and nature trails and is the starting point of the famous Doolough Drive going from Louisburgh along by Doolough Lake, passing by Aasleagh Falls and ending up in Leenane, County Galway. This drive is both enchanting and thought provoking.

**Westport C2** is a popular tourist destination and has won the Irish Tidy Towns Competition three times in recent years. Planned and designed by Richard Cassells and nestling in inner Clew Bay, this delightfully laid out town boasts elegant Georgian streetscapes and effortlessly friendly character making it an authentic but lively holiday base. The Westport area offers a wide range of sporting and outdoor activities including golf, sailing, angling, walking, cycling and horse riding. In nearby Murrisk Croagh Patrick provides an arresting backdrop to the town and has its pilgrim climb on the last Sunday of July each year.

For more information on Mayo's towns and villages, visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

### ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Ballintubber Abbey & the Celtic Furrow

C3 ♿ ↑↑↑

Ballintubber, Claremorris, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9030934  
Email: info@ballintubberabbey.ie  
www.ballintubberabbey.ie  
Sat Nav: N 53° 45.409 W 009° 17.006

The Abbey's history stretches back to pre-Christian times when pilgrims from the east passed through on their way to Croagh Patrick. St Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland in c. 441AD and founded a church here, though the present Abbey was founded in 1216 by King Cathal O'Conor. The present church is the only church in Ireland founded by an Irish king which is still in daily use.

**Open:** Ballintubber Abbey: open all year. Celtic Furrow: open July and August.

**Admission:** By donation. Guided Tour €4 per person.



## Ballycroy National Park & Visitor Centre B2 ↑↑↑

Ballycroy, Co. Mayo.  
Tel: 098 49888  
Email: ballycroyvisitorcentre@environ.ie  
www.ballycroynationalpark.ie  
Sat Nav: 54.09162, -9.82178

Located in northwest Mayo, Ballycroy National Park is Ireland's sixth National

Park. Comprised of Atlantic blanket bog and mountainous terrain, covering a vast uninhabited and un-spoilt wilderness dominated by the Nephin Beg mountain range. The Visitor Centre for the Park opened in July 2009 and is located in the village of Ballycroy. It houses an interactive exhibition on the habitats of Ballycroy National Park and the surrounding area, an Information Desk and a 2km Nature Trail with pond, interpretation panels and viewing point.

**Open:** Daily 10.00 – 17.30 March/April – October.

Note: Opening details are subject to change.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



## Céide Fields Visitor Centre

A3 ♿ ↑↑↑

Ballycastle, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 096 43325  
Email: ceidefields@opw.ie  
www.heritageireland.ie

The Céide Fields are the oldest known field systems in the world, over five and a half millennia old, preserved beneath a blanket of peat over several square miles on the dramatic north Mayo coast. Visit the multi-award winning Centre, with exhibitions, film and tearoom and take a guided tour where you can discover a buried wall yourself using a centuries old method of probing. Experience the unique ecology of the bogland and take a look over the edge of a 370ft high sea cliff from our viewing platform.

**Open:** April, May & October: daily, 10.00 – 17.00.

June to September: daily, 10.00 – 18.00. Season: 21st April to 26th October.

**Admission:** Adult: €4. Child/Student: €2. Senior: €3. Family: €10.



## Clew Bay Heritage Centre

C2 ♿ ↑↑↑

The Quay, Westport, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 098 26852  
Email: westportheritage@eircom.net  
www.museumsofmayo.com/clewbay.htm  
Sat Nav: 53° 48' 07 N 9° 33' 17 W.

This centre traces the history of Westport and the Clew Bay area from pre-Christian

times to the present day. A wonderful display of artefacts, documents and photographs provide a basis for the presentation of local history, customs and traditions. A genealogical service for the Westport and Clew Bay area is also located here. Guided walks of the town of Westport are also available.

**Open:** Monday to Friday, 10.00 – 14.00. June to September incl.:

Monday to Friday, 10.00 – 17.00. July & August: Sunday, 14.30 – 17.00.

Season: All year round.

**Admission:** Adult: €3. Child (accompanied): Free of charge. Senior/Student: €2.

### ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Clogher Heritage Complex C3

Clogher, Claremorris, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9360891  
Email: clogherenvigroup@eircom.net  
www.clogherenvironmentalgroup.weebly.com

The Clogher Heritage Complex is comprised of the heritage cottage, a cottage garden with display of old farm machinery, water feature and picnic area and a working forge. A typical one-bedroom labourer's cottage was constructed in 2003 and local residents have donated many of the articles on display. The Clogher Bog Looped walk starts here from which you can view some of the local historical and religious monuments. Maps and leaflets are available at cottage.

**Open:** Monday to Friday. 11.00 – 15.00.

Open at other times by appointment. Season: April to October.

**Admission:** €2.50, Child (accompanied): Free of Charge, Senior/Student: €2.



## Croagh Patrick & Croagh Patrick Visitor Centre C2

Murrisk, Westport, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 098 64114  
Email: info@croagh-patrick.com  
www.croagh-patrick.com

Croagh Patrick or 'The Reek' as it is known locally, overlooks Clew Bay and pilgrims regularly make the 762m (2,510ft) ascent in honour of St Patrick. The Visitor Centre at the base contains information about the archaeological discoveries on the summit and has a café serving all home baked cakes and light lunch, a gift shop which stocks souvenirs, crafts and t-shirts and certs for climbers. Shower facilities are available in the centre.

**Open:** March to October: 10.00 – 17.00. July & August – longer opening hours (phone to confirm). November to March – limited weekend opening.

**Admission:** Free of charge.



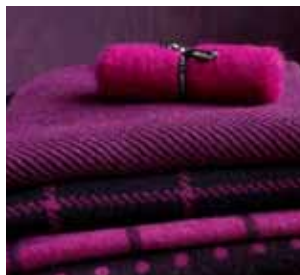
## Eviction Cottage C3

Elmhall, Belcarra, Castlebar, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 087 6814980/087 9090046  
Email: marybprendergast@ireland.com  
www.museumsofmayo.com

This 19th Century cottage was the scene of the last eviction in Belcarra. Once the home of the Walshes, a family of nine who were evicted by the landlord's agents in October 1886, the cottage has been restored as a heritage centre and has been refurbished to how it would have looked before the eviction. Also restored is the 'tigin' a single room built at the time by the neighbours to house the evicted family.

**Open:** By appointment all year.

**Admission:** Donations always welcome.



## Foxford Woollen Mills & Visitor Centre B4

Foxford, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9256104  
Email: info@foxfordwoollenmills.ie  
www.foxfordwoollenmills.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.97366; -9.11352

A three-dimensional audio-visual presentation tells the story of a remarkable nun, Mother Agnes Morrogh-Bernard, who founded the Foxford Woollen Mills in 1892 transforming the town and district. Visitors can experience firsthand the high quality blankets, throws, etc. still being produced here, connecting 1892 with today in real terms. Foxford has since become synonymous throughout the world with high quality tweeds, rugs and blankets. Other facilities include a retail store, restaurant and jewellers. Lifts and disabled facilities available.

**Open:** Monday to Saturday, 10.00 – 18.00. Sunday, 12.00 – 18.00.

Season: Open all year.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Fr. Peyton Memorial Centre

B4

Attymass, Ballina, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 096 45374  
Email: ppmc@eircom.net  
www.fatherpeytoncentre.ie  
Sat Nav: N54 deg.03.002  
W009 deg. 05.038

Fr. Peyton was internationally known as the 'Rosary Priest' and here you can experience an amazing presentation of his life story, and view the photographic exhibition of the prayer crusades. Relax in the beautifully landscaped gardens and spectacular views of the Ox Mountains. Take time out to pray in the oratory while listening to an inspiring recording of Fr. Peyton saying the Rosary. Enjoy the finest of home cooked food in our restaurant. Lunches must be pre-booked. Snacks available at all times. Shop for crafts & souvenirs.

**Open:** Monday to Friday, 9.50 – 17.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €4, Tour and Video. Tour only: €2.50. Group: €3 per person.



## Hennigan's Heritage Centre-Farm

B4

Killasser, Swinford, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9252505/087 2491402  
Email: tom-hennigan@hotmail.com  
www.henigansheritage.com

Hennigan's Heritage Centre tells the story of life for the people of the west of Ireland over the last 200 years. Guided tours given by Tom Hennigan who has lived on this small holding of land all his life and is the sixth generation to do so. A real experience not to be missed.

**Open:** April to October, Monday to Saturday. 10.00 – 18.00. Guided tours: 12.00, 14.00 & 16.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €12, Family (with 2 children): €25.

## The West Counties Pocket Guide



## Íonad Deirbhle Eachleim Heritage Centre

A1

Eachléim Clochar, Béal Átha an Fheadha,  
Co Mhaigheo.  
(Aughleam, Belmullet, Co Mayo)  
Tel: 097 85728/85727  
Email: comhardeirbhile@eircom.net  
www.museumsofmayo.com/deirbhile

Set in a stunningly beautiful and unspoilt landscape this centre gives a valuable insight into the lifestyle of this area in times past. Íonad Deirbhle Heritage Centre houses a wealth of information relating to local folklore, archaeology, local history, D Day weather forecast 1944 and an account of a former way of life, i.e. currach fishing and construction of old houses native to the area. This information is presented in both Irish and English. Central to the building is a stone fireplace and chimney breast which dates back to c. 1850. A unique feature of the building is a 10ft high stain-glassed window illustrating the story of St Deirbhle, after whom the centre is named. The ruins of her 6th Century church (a national monument) are in the old cemetery Fallmore with her Holy Well in the sand dunes close by.

**Open:** April to October: Monday to Saturday, 10.00 – 18.00 & Sunday, 12.00 – 18.00. November to March: Monday to Saturday, 10.00 – 16.00 & Sunday, 12.00 to 16.00. Season: All year round.

**Admission:** Adult: €3. Child: €1.50 (U-12 yrs free of charge). Senior/Student €2. Family: €12. Group rates on request.



## Ireland's School of Falconry

D3

Ashford Castle, Cong, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9546820  
Email: enquiries@falconry.ie  
www.falconry.ie  
Sat. Nav: 52.353;-9.295

Your chance to fly a hawk around the gardens and woodlands of Ashford Castle

in a one hour private Hawk Walk. You will never forget the moment when your hawk first swoops down from a tree and lands on your gloved fist. As you fly the hawks, your instructor will explain about the hawks' exceptional eyesight, their speed and agility and how the hawks are trained. Be sure to bring your camera – flying a hawk is an experience of a lifetime!

**Open:** Daily (excl. Christmas Day), 9.00 – 17.00, by appointment only.

**Admission:** One hour private Hawk Walk €70 per participant.

Reduced rates apply for 2, 3, 4 or more participants.

No charge for a small number of spectators accompanying participants.

## ACTIVITIES



# Visitor Attractions



## Michael Davitt Museum C4 ♿ 🚶 🚴

Straide, Foxford, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9031022/9031942  
Email: davittmuseum@eircom.net  
www.museumsofmayo.com/davitt

Born in Straide in 1846 at the height of the Great Famine, Michael Davitt was founder of the Land League and

campaigner ceaselessly for land rents to be reduced until they were no more. The Michael Davitt Museum is housed in the beautifully-restored pre-penal church in the village of Straide, Co Mayo. The Museum contains an extensive collection of documents, photos, Land Acts, letters, postcards, posters and other items connected with his life. Excellent audio-visual and guided tours enhance the experience.

**Open:** 10.00 – 18.00 (including bank holidays). Season: All year round.

**Admission:** Adult: €3.20, Senior/Student: €2, Family: €7.50.

Group rates on request.



## National Museum of Ireland - Country Life C3 ♿ 🚶 🚴

Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9031755  
Email: tpark@museum.ie  
www.museum.ie

Home to the National Folk life Collection, the award-winning National Museum of

Ireland – Country Life is located in Turlough village, 8km east of Castlebar (on the N5). The Museum portrays traditional life in Ireland during the nineteenth and early twentieth Century. Fascinating artefacts deal with domestic life, agriculture, fishing and hunting, clothing and textiles, furniture and fittings, trades and crafts, transport, sports and leisure and religion. Set in the spectacular grounds of Turlough Park, the Museum treats visitors to a taste of how our ancestors lived their daily lives, in both difficult and joyful times. Guided tours are available.

**Open:** Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00 – 17.00. Sunday, 14.00 – 17.00.

Closed Monday, including bank holidays. Season: All year round.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## The West Counties Pocket Guide



## Kiltimagh Museum C4 ♿ 🚶 🚴

Old Railway Station, Kiltimagh, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9381132  
Email: vincenzohora@eircom.net

The building housing the museum is in itself an artefact as it is the beautifully restored Goods Store from the now disused railway station. On display inside are artefacts reflecting the area's social and cultural past from c. 1800 onwards. Two restored railway carriages can also be boarded – a favourite activity for children.

**Open:** Daily 14.00 – 18.00. Season: July & August. Otherwise by appointment.  
**Admission:** Adult: €4, Child: €1.



## Knock Museum C4 ♿ 🚶 🚴

Knock Shrine, Knock, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9375034  
www.knock-shrine.ie  
Sat Nav: N: 53.79391 W: 008.91387

Knock Museum captures the compelling story of the Knock Apparition of 1879 and tells of the fifteen people who witnessed the event. Visitors can listen to personal stories of pilgrims and read of the many reported cured at Knock. The exhibition shows how life has changed since 1879 yet faith has remained constant.

**Open:** May to October: Daily, 10.00 – 18.00. November to April: Daily, 10.00 – 16.00. Closed Christmas Day & St. Stephen's Day. Season: 1st May to 1st November.  
**Admission:** Adult: €4. Child/Senior: €3 (U-5 yrs free of charge). Student: €3.50, Group: €2 per person. Family rate available.



## Knock Shrine C4 ♿ 🚶 🚴

Knock, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9388100  
www.knock-shrine.ie  
Sat Nav: N: 53.79391 W: 008.91387

On 21st August 1879 Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist are reported to have appeared at the south

gable of Knock Parish Church. From this miraculous occurrence Knock has grown to the status of an internationally recognised Marian Shrine.

**Open:** 8.00 – 21.30. Season: 1st of May – 9th October.

**Admission:** Free of charge.

## ACTIVITIES

# Visitor Attractions



## Quiet Man Museum D3

Quiet Man Museum.  
Cong Village, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 094 9546089  
Email: [info@quietman-cong.com](mailto:info@quietman-cong.com)  
[www.quietman-cong.com](http://www.quietman-cong.com)

In 1951 John Ford's movie 'The Quiet Man' starring John Wayne, Maureen

O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald was set in the beautiful west of Ireland with filming centred in the village of Cong. The Quiet Man Cottage Museum is a novel concept which will give the visitor a comprehensive Quiet Man experience as if they were actually 'on-set' as the ground floor of the cottage has been designed as an exact replica of 'White-o-Mornin' Cottage. Be a film star in Cong for a day by taking the award winning tour with Gerry. Guided tour of The Quiet Man locations daily at 11am.

**Open:** Daily, 10.00 – 16.00. Season: 1st April to 31st October.

**Admission:** Adult: €5, Child: €4, Senior/Student: €4, Family: €15.



## Westport House & Pirates Adventure Park C2

Westport, Co Mayo.  
Tel: 098 27766/098 27780  
Email: [info@westporthouse.ie](mailto:info@westporthouse.ie)  
[www.westporthouse.ie](http://www.westporthouse.ie)

18th Century Westport House and its adjoining Pirate Adventure Park provide

a unique cocktail of culture, fun and adventure for all members of the family. Westport House creates a living documentation of 500 years of history, with 30 rooms on show and 3 comprehensive exhibitions. The Pirate Adventure Park located on the grounds offers hours of fun and adventure for families. A fun filled day out for all the family!

**Open:** Westport House – open weekends only for March & October. Open daily from April to Sept 2011. Pirate Adventure Park – please contact Westport House for opening arrangements.

**Admission:** Please contact Westport House for daily admission rates. Family season membership offers also available.



ACHILL SOUND, CO. MAYO

## ACTIVITIES

## ART GALLERIES

### Achill Island

**Dánlann Yawl Art Gallery B2** Owenduff, Tonragee, 098 36137, gallery@achillpainting.com, www.achillpainting.com

**Western Light Art Gallery B1** The Sandybanks, Keel, 098 43325, sales@seancannon.ie, www.seancannon.ie

### Ballina

**Ballina Arts Centre B3** Barretts Street, 096 73593, info@ballinaartscentre.com, www.ballinaartscentre.com

### Castlebar

**Linenhall Arts Centre C3** Linenhall Street, 094 9023733, linenhall@anu.ie, www.thelinenhall.com

**Town Hall Arts Centre C3** Castlebar, 094 9255812

### Westport

**Custom House Studios C2** Westport Quay, 098 28735, info@customhousestudios.ie, www.customhousestudios.ie

**The Waterfront Gallery C2** The Quay, 098 28406, waterfrontframing@gmail.com, www.thewaterfrontgallery.com

**Sea Sky Shore C3** James Street, 098 27122, seaskyshore@eircom.net, www.seaskyshore.com

**Livingstone Gallery C3** Distillery Road, 087 2883707

**Andrew Stone Gallery C2** Bridge Street, 098 25619

**The Sue Wright Gallery C3** The Quay, 098 27343

### Claremorris

**Claremorris Art Gallery C4** Town Hall, 094 9372886, info@claremorrisgallery.com, www.claremorrisgallery.com

### Cong

**Cong Art Gallery D3** Main Street, 094 9545675, info@congartgallery.com, www.congartgallery.com

### Ballycastle

**Courthouse Gallery A3** Main Street, 096 43184, baf@iol.ie

## MUSEUMS OF MAYO

**The Michael Davitt Museum C4** Tel: 094 9031022.

The museum is housed in the beautifully-restored pre-penal church in the village of Straide. Michael Davitt was born and is buried in Straide and was evicted from his home here. Davitt was known as the "Father of the Land League" as a result of his work with the League and its success in getting Ireland's land returned to the people of Ireland.

**The National Museum of Ireland – Country Life C3** Tel: 094 9031773. Located in the spectacular grounds of Turlough Park, near Castlebar amid magnificent gardens and an artificial lake. The modern museum building is located alongside the restored Turlough Park House and its adjoining courtyards.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF COUNTRY LIFE, CASTLEBAR, CO. MAYO

**The Old Schoolhouse Museum C3** Ballintubber. Tel: 094 9655397.

The schoolhouse, which dates from 1929, recaptures the atmosphere of a classroom during the embryonic period of the Irish state and reflects a period in Irish education which straddled two centuries.

**The Old Coastguard Station C2**

Tel: 094 9025500. www.coastguardsofyesteryear.org

8km north west of Westport from 1879 to 1921 the station originally housed 12 coastguard families after which the buildings were handed over to the Free State government. The present owner, is restoring the buildings and researching the life and times of the coastguard in Ireland.

## COOKERY SCHOOLS

**Lisloughrey Lodge, Cong D3** Tel: 094 9545 400.

At Lisloughrey Lodge the emphasis is on the freshness and seasonality of locally-sourced ingredients and utilising these to create delicious dishes without the worry of overly-complicated recipes.

**Marjorie's Cookery School, Ballina B2** Tel: 096 22609.

Courses range from basic to advanced, vegetarian cooking and budget cooking. Join Marjorie for breakfast, healthy eating and much more. All ingredients are organic with emphasis on seasonal products and presentation.

**Pontoon Bridge Hotel Cookery School, Foxford B4** Tel: 094 9256120.

All courses have a serious and professional aim, and are intensive but they are also a great deal of fun. In two days, become a skilled, creative and organised master of your own kitchen. Simple, yet sophisticated cuisine, with an emphasis on freshness and quality of seasonal ingredients.

## LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

**Killala School of English A3** Crosspatrick, Killala, Co Mayo.

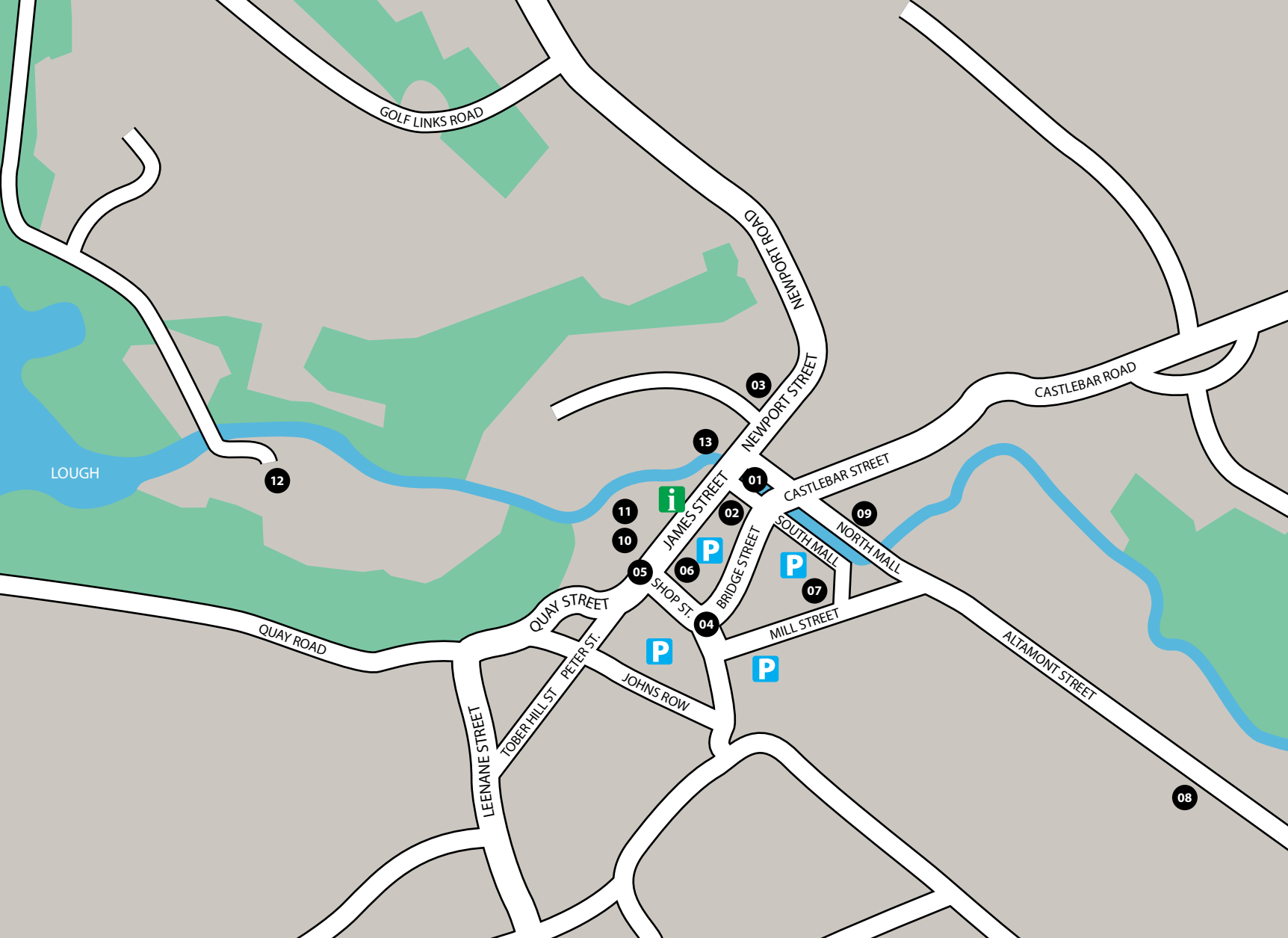
Tel: 096 32308. Email: healym@iol.ie, www.kseirl.com  
Contact: Mary Healy.

**Parlez Pronto C3** Market Square, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9024565. Email: parlezp@iol.ie, www.parlezpronto.com  
Contact: John Healy.

## ACTIVITIES





ACTIVITIES

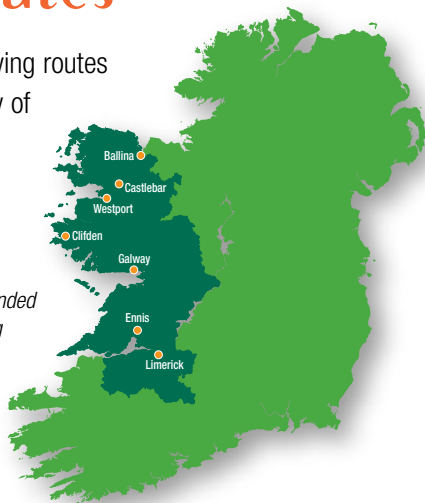
Westport

- 01 Sean McBride Memorial
- 02 St. Mary's Church
- 03 Holy Trinity Church
- 04 The Clock
- 05 The Octagon
- 06 Town Hall
- 07 Bus Stop
- 08 Train Station
- 09 Post Office
- 10 Cinema
- 11 Leisure Centre
- 12 Westport House
- 13 Library

# Touring Routes

We have chosen some great driving routes which will introduce you to many of the region's most famous sights and attractions and also to lesser known gems.

*Please note that the length and recommended time of drives are approximate, depending on number of sites visited along routes and time spent there. Routes can be travelled in any direction and from any starting point, map illustrations are intended as a guide only, and routes should be used in conjunction with reference to a good road map of Ireland.*



## CONNEMARA - COAST ROAD TOUR

**Route 1: Galway » Spiddal » Clifden**

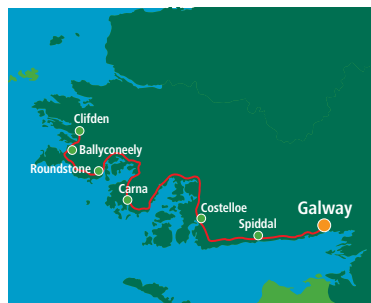
Distance: 123km (77 miles)

Explore the coastal area between Galway City and Clifden, a scenic landscape of granite rock and countless sea inlets.

Leaving Galway drive west on the **R336** towards **An Spidéal (Spiddal)** home to the Spiddal Craft village. Travel onwards and turn left on to the **R372** to **Ros an Míl (Rossaveal)** the ferry port for departures to the Aran Islands.

Return to the **R336** northwards to **Casla (Costelloe)** then turn right onto the **R374** and continue on to **Béal an Daingin (Bealadangan)** and enter the world of **na hOileáin (the Islands)**. Drive to **Lettermore** and **Gorumna Islands** and onto **Lettermullen** on a series of bridges and causeways.

Back in **Casla** drive north on the **R336** until you arrive at a T-junction at **Scrib (Screeb)**. Turn left onto **R340** and take the second turn left which will take you to the holiday cottage of **Padraig Pearce** at **Ros Muc (Rosmuck)**. Back on the **R340** follow the road around Kilkieran Bay and down to the little village of **Cill**



**Chiaráin (Kilkieran)**. A short journey of 8km brings you to **Carna**, the main town of the peninsula. Off the coast lies **MacDara Island** and **Mason Island**. As you travel along the road winding north by **Bertraghboy Bay** turn left on to the **R342** with the **Twelve Bens** mountain range on your right. Passing through the village of **Caiseal (Cashel)** turn left onto **R341** at **Tuaim Beola (Toombeola)** and enjoy the views of the Atlantic Ocean as you continue to **Cloch na Ros (Roundstone)**, Connemara's most picturesque seaside village with its two magnificent sandy beaches **Gurteen** and **Dog's Bay**.

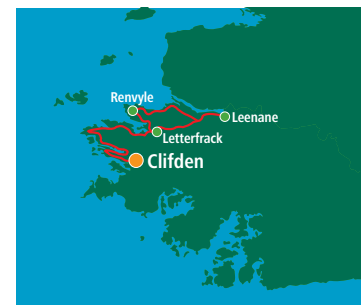
Continue westwards for 14 km to the little village of **Ballyconneely** with the ruins of **Bunowen Castle**. Heading north on the **R341** you will soon pass the beautiful coral beach at **Mannin Bay** and **Derrigimlagh Bog** to the right. Nearby on the left is a large stone monument commemorating **Alcock and Brown's** landing in 1919. Continue on the **R341** until your final destination **An Clochan (Clifden)**, the capital of Connemara, comes into view.

## CONNEMARA - NORTH WEST COASTAL TOUR

**Route 2: Clifden » Renvyle »  
Letterfrack » Clifden**

Distance: 98km (61 miles)

A coastal drive between **Clifden** and **Leenane**. Depart **Clifden** on the scenic Sky Road from where you can view the islands of Inishturk and Turbot. Continue on the Sky Road Loop to the head of Streamstown Bay to join the **N59** north and then follow the signpost left to the village of **Claddaghduff**. Drive around the coast to **Cleggan** from where you can see the islands of Inishark and Inishboffin out in the Atlantic Ocean. Drive east on the **R341** rejoining the **N59** and on to **Letterfrack**. There you can visit the **Connemara National Park** 1,540 ha park and climb Diamond Hill (445m). Turning left in **Letterfrack** and crossing the Dawros river turn left again for **Renvyle** and the ruins of Renvyle Castle. Taking the narrow coast road to the left at **Tullycross** and keeping left you will reach a T-junction at **Salrock**. Turning left here will bring you to **Killary Harbour** and **Rosroe**, a tiny hamlet at the mouth of **Killary Harbour**, Ireland's only fjord. Return to the **N59** passing the lovely Lough Fee on your right. On reaching the **N59** a left turn will bring you to **Leenane** village (7km), while a right turn will bring you back to **Letterfrack** via **Kylemore Abbey**, once the castle of Mitchell Henry, M.P., with its beautiful woodland, Victorian Walled Garden, picturesque lake and since a Benedictine Monastery. From **Kylemore** it's just 5 km to **Letterfrack** before returning to **Clifden**.



## ACTIVITIES

## CONNEMARA - THE VALLEY TOUR

**Route 3: Clifden » Inagh Valley  
» Killary Harbour » Maam Valley**

Distance: 100km (62 miles)

Take the **N59** Galway road from **Clifden** and drive eastwards for about 9 km until the wooded lake of Ballinahinch appears to the right.

To the left are the **Beanna Beola**

**Mountains**. Turning left onto

the **R344** to the **Inagh Valley**. To the right here are the **Maamturk Mountains**

– **Maam Tuirc (the pass of the Boar)** - as the road winds around **Derryclare Lough** and **Lough Inagh**. The road leads us to the **N59** Clifden-Leenane road.

Turn right and enjoy the panoramic views of **Killary Harbour** on the left before

reaching the village of **Leenane**. From **Leenane** take the **R336** and drive down the famous Maam Valley through Joyce Country to **Maam**. Turn right here (**R336**)

continuing south across the Joyce river and Failmore Rivers as Kirkogoue mountain, the eastern end of the Maamturks, rise to our right. On the right is Leckavrea

mountain and Loughanielaun Lake. Arriving at **Maam Cross** turn right following the

**N59** westwards and back to **Clifden** through the small hamlet of **Recess**. A small detour to the left will bring you to **Ballinahinch Castle** and wonderful lake views.

Return to the **N59** and back to **Clifden**.



## CORRIB – CORRIB COUNTRY TOUR

**Route 4: Galway » Oughterard  
» Maam Cross » Cong  
» Headford » Galway**

Distance: 106km (66 miles)

Take the **N59** northwest from **Galway City**. Passing through the village of **Moycullen** and the scenic **Ross Lake** on the right. The village of **Oughterard** comes into

view and on the right is **Aughnanure Castle**, on the shores of **Lough Corrib**

once the finest fortified dwelling of the O'Flaherty Clan - open to the public during the summer. Returning to the main road continue to the delightful village of

**Oughterard**. If time allows turn right in the village square and enjoy a 13km

journey along the picturesque shoreline of **Lough Corrib**. Returning to

**Oughterard**, turn on to the "scenic route" driving west on the **N59** towards **Maam**

**Cross** home to the replica of 'The Quiet Man' thatched cottage. At **Maam Cross**

turn right on to the **R336** to **Maam** and **Maam Bridge**. Turn right here on to the

**R345** along the arm of **Lough Corrib** and views of Castlekirk Island with its 13th



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

Century castle. Drive on through **Cornamona**, then **Clonbur** and the beautiful village of **Cong** (Co Mayo), home to a 13th Century Augustinian Abbey, setting for the film '**The Quiet Man**' and **Ashford Castle**. From **Cong** journey back to Galway on the **R334** through **Cross** and into the town of **Headford** home of the Ross Errilly, a 14th Century house of the Franciscans. Heading towards **Galway** on the **N84**, a detour to the right will bring you to **Annaghdown** and its lovely bay on Lough Corrib and also a series of ecclesiastical ruins. Return to the **N84** and continue back to **Galway**.

## COUNTY GALWAY – THE NORTHERN TOUR

**Route 5: Galway » Claregalway  
» Tuam » Mountbellew »  
Lackagh » Galway**

Distance: 123km (77 miles)

Start on the **N17** from **Galway City** to **Claregalway**, a village

where you can see a Franciscan

Friary and Burke Castle. Continuing

on the **N17** cross the Clare River

and arrive at the ancient town of **Tuam**, home to a 12th Century high cross, a 19th

Century Catholic Cathedral and Tuam **Mill Museum**. Driving north on the **N83**

towards **Dunmore** with the now roofless Norman Castle of the De Berminghams

and nearby a 14th Century Augustinian Abbey. From **Dunmore** travel southeast

on the **R328** to **Moylough** village. Take the **N63** southeast to **Mountbellew**,

a delightful village on the river Shiven. Returning to Galway on the **N63** via

**Abbeyknockmoy** where you can visit a 13th Century abbey built for the Cistercian

Order. Leaving **Abbeyknockmoy** on the **N63** you can stop off at Lackagh Museum

before joining the **N17** at **Knockdoe** and returning to **Galway**.



## ACTIVITIES





## COUNTY GALWAY – THE EASTERN TOUR

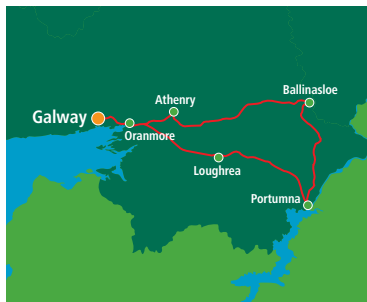
**Route 6: Galway » Oranmore » Athenry » Ballinasloe » Portumna » Galway**

Distance: 150km (94 miles)

An interest in the past will certainly be rekindled by this tour through the heart of east Galway.

From **Galway City** take the **R446** to **Oranmore**. Continue on the

**R446** and turn left on to the **R348** for **Athenry** which proudly claims to be the finest surviving medieval town in Ireland with the Bermingham castle and a Dominican Priory. **Athenry** is a bustling town with a number of charming cafés and shops. Driving around the Priory turn left for **Kilconnell (R348)**. This journey brings you through the countryside to **New Inn** and on to **Kilconnell**, where lies an impressive 14th Century Franciscan Friary. Drive east to **Ballinasloe**, famous for its annual **October Horse Fair**. Take some time to explore this ancient town and its many fine stone buildings before driving back towards **Galway** on the **R446**. Turn left on to the **R355** for **Portumna**, a Georgian town, whose attractions include **Portumna Castle & Gardens**, **Portumna Forest Park**, and **Portumna Dominican Friary**. Leaving **Portumna** take the **N65** to **Loughrea**, where you can visit Loughrea Cathedral and a Carmelite Abbey. 5km north of **Loughrea** lies the **Turoe Stone**. Driving back on the **R446** you will pass through the villages of **Craughwell** and **Oranmore** on the journey back to **Galway City**.



## COUNTY GALWAY – A SOUTHERN TOUR

**Route 7: Galway » Kinvara » Ardrahan » Gort » Galway**

Distance: 80km (50 miles)

This short tour explores south Galway, the region between Gort and Kinvara. Depart **Galway** on the **R446** and follow the coast road through **Oranmore** village.

Turn right on to the **N18** passing

**Clarenbridge**, famous for its Oyster Festival and into **Kilcolgan**. Turn right on to the **N67** for **Kinvara**, a quaint seaside village dominated by Dunguaire Castle and Drumacoo monastic site. Heading east on the **R347** on to a charming village of **Ardrahan** with a wide market square and cross, you can still view the gable of a medieval church standing in the churchyard. From here travel south on the **N18** to the town of **Gort** rich in history such as the ancient monastic site of Kilmacduagh, Coole Park, Thoor Ballylee, the Kiltartan Gregory Museum and Gort Heritage Centre. From **Gort** take the **N18** north back to **Galway**.



## NORTH MAYO TOUR

**Route 8: Ballina » Killala » Belmullet » Crossmolina » Ballina**

Distance: 140km (87 miles), excluding the Mullet Peninsula.

This tour explores the northern coastline of Mayo taking in **Céide Fields** the most extensive Stone Age site in the world, the **Mullet Peninsula** and some of the most superb cliff scenery in Ireland.

Leaving **Ballina** take the **R314** to the well known angling town of **Killala**. From there journey on to the village of **Ballycastle**. There you may divert to the right to **Downpatrick Head** and **Benwee Head** which includes some of the most dramatic sea cliffs in the country. Continuing west you arrive at **Céide Fields** and the pyramid-shaped Visitor Centre. Near the centre, the road runs parallel to the spectacular cliffs of **Céide** - 112m at the highest point. These cliffs are dangerous especially for children. Back in the car continue westward passing **Belderg** prehistoric farm on the left and blanket bog on the right. Continue on to **Belmullet** and the **Mullet Peninsula** an area of uspoilt natural beauty. **Carne** the renowned 18-hole golf links is located here. Leaving **Belmullet** take the **R313** to **Bangor** before joining the **N59** to **Crossmolina** and back to **Ballina**.



## NORTH-EAST MAYO TOUR

**Route 9: Ballina » Crossmolina » Foxford » Swinford » Ballina**

Distance: 135km (84 miles), excluding detours

Journey through the scenic 'lake district' of northeast Mayo, the Moy Valley and the Ox Mountains.

Leaving **Ballina** take the **N59** to **Crossmolina**, Turn left on to the

**R315** and visit the **North Mayo Family Heritage Centre at Enniscoe House**. Return to the **R315**, and continue to **Pontoon**, renowned for its angling. Take the **R310** through the beautiful 'lake district' with **Lough Conn** to the left and **Lough Cullin** to the right. Continue on the **R318** to Foxford, where a visit to the award winning **Foxford Woollen Mills** is a must. Leaving **Foxford** take the **N58** to **Straide**, with its Friary and the **Michael Davitt Museum**. Then on to **Ballyvary** and take the **N5** eastward to **Swinford** and then the **N26** to **Foxford**. Enroute you may divert right and visit the unforgettable **Hennigan's Heritage Centre**. Returning to the **N26** driving north takes you back to **Ballina** via **Foxford**.



## ACTIVITIES

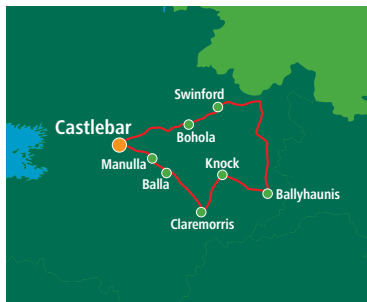
## EAST MAYO TOUR

**Route 10: Castlebar » Claremorris » Knock » Swinford » Castlebar**

Distance: 116km (72miles), excluding detours

This tour takes in the undulating plains of east Mayo, with many interesting places to visit on the way.

Depart **Castlebar** on the **N60** for **Claremorris** passing through **Breaffy**, **Manulla**, and **Balla** where you can take a detour to **Mayo Abbey** and the site of the illustrious monastery from which the county got its name. Returning to the **N60** continue to **Claremorris** and then take the **N17** to **Knock**. After a visit to **Knock Shrine and Folk Museum** take the **R323** to **Ballyhaunis** with its Augustinian friary. From here travel north on the **N83** rejoining the **N17**. Continue north passing by **Ireland West Airport Knock**, turn left on to the **N5** to explore the town of **Swinford** and village of **Bohola**. A detour on the way back to Castlebar to visit the **Museum of Ireland - Country Life at Turlough Park** is a "must see". This is where visitors can develop an understanding of life in Ireland during the 19th and 20th Centuries. Depart **Turlough**, rejoin the **N5** and return to **Castlebar**.



## SOUTH MAYO TOUR

**Route 11: Castlebar » Ballintubber » Ballinrobe » Cong » Headford » Castlebar**

Distance: 100km (62miles), excluding detours

A journey through south Mayo's interesting and scenic 'lake district'.

Begin in **Castlebar** and take the **N84** towards Ballinrobe. Approx. 11km from **Castlebar** follow the signs to the left and visit the restored **Ballintubber Abbey**. Rejoin the **N84** and follow the signs for **Moore Hall**. After visiting Moore Hall and taking in the beauty of Lough Carra travel on to **Ballinrobe**. Carrying on take the **R334** and then the **R345** to Cong where you can visit the ruins of Cong Abbey, Ashford Castle and some of the scenes immortalised in the film 'The Quiet Man'. Take the **R334** to **Headford**, a popular angling centre for Lough Corrib. Then taking the **N84** north, through **Ballinrobe** to **Partry** where you may consider a detour on the **R330** to explore **Tourmakeady**, a Gaeltacht (Irish Speaking) area in beautiful surroundings on the western shore of **Lough Mask**. Returning to the **N84** continue the journey back to **Castlebar**.



ACHILL ISLAND, CO. MAYO

## The West Counties Pocket Guide

## SOUTH-WEST MAYO TOUR

**Route 12: Westport » Murrisk » Louisburgh » Leenane » Westport**

Distance: 75km (47miles)

Experience the scenic mountainous peninsula that lies between Clew Bay and Killary Harbour, one of the most beautiful parts of Ireland.

Leaving **Westport** follow the signs for Westport Quay where it's worth visiting **Westport House** and the **Clew Bay Heritage Centre** if time allows. Continue on the **R335** to **Louisburgh** enjoying wonderful views of Clew Bay with its numerous islands which are actually submerged drumlins! At **Murrisk**, **Croagh Patrick**, Ireland's 'holy mountain' is to our left and on the right are **Murrisk Abbey** and the **National Famine Monument**. Follow the **R335** to **Louisburgh** and the **Granuaile Centre**. Turn left on the **R335** signposted **Leenane** passing through **Doo Lough Valley** and **Delphi Valley**. This drive is exquisite at any time of year. After crossing the Burdorrageha River, **Delphi Adventure Centre** on the right caters for residential and day-visitors. It's worth noting that much of the film 'The Field' was shot in Delphi Valley and the Leenane area. Continue past the famous **Aasleagh Falls** waterfall on the Erriff River and at the innermost point of Killary Harbour turn right to **Leenane**. From **Leenane** take the **N59** back to **Westport** via **Erriff** with the Partry Mountains on your right.



## ACTIVITIES

## WEST MAYO TOUR

**Route 13: Westport » Newport » Achill Island » Westport**

Distance: 86km (54miles)

This tour takes in from Westport to Achill Island along the east and north shores of Clew Bay.

From **Westport** take the **N59** to **Newport**. Before crossing the **Newport River** at the entrance to the town, the details of one of Ireland's finest walking trails from **Newport** to **Bangor** (48km) are displayed. There are a number of walking trails in this region which you should explore if time allows. On the right is the abandoned seven arch viaduct bridge erected in 1892 to carry the **Westport** to **Achill** railway line. Driving through **Newport** you will see signposts for the '**Nepin Drive**' - one of the most beautiful drives in Ireland. Returning to the **N59** about 3km further on you will find a sign to the left for **Burrishoole Abbey** and a few miles further along the main road we have **Carrigahowley Castle** (alias Rockfleet), one of the homes of the legendary Pirate Queen, **Granuaile (Grace O'Malley)**. Back on **N59** we head towards **Mulranny** where we can explore the **Corraun Peninsula** (a Gaeltacht area) which is the entrance to **Achill Island**. After visiting **Achill**, as you return to **Westport**, driving through **Mulranny**, you may turn left on the **N59** in order to explore the Ballycrooy region and the **Ballycrooy National Park** before returning to **Westport**.



## THE LIMERICK DRIVE

**Route 14: Limerick City » Adare » Newcastle West » Dromcollogher » Rath Luirc » Kilmallock » Hospital » Limerick City**

Distance: 134km (83 miles)

This drive begins in the bustling city of **Limerick** and brings you through a green and fertile land where livestock graze and visitors take their time. Take a south westerly route out of the city on the **N21** Limerick to Tralee/Killarney road and head for the beautiful village of Adare where the streets are lined with Tudor style thatched cottages. Enjoy 5 star luxury in **Adare Manor** hotel and explore a unique cluster of mediaeval religious houses. Follow the signposts to the woodland estate and lakes around the shell of 18th century **Curraghchase House**, once home of the poet Aubrey de Vere, now a State forest and park. Continuing on, the **N11** will bring you to the busy market town



of **Rathkeale** and south to the attractive riverside town of **Newcastle West**.

Turning southeast on the Cork Road **R522** and head to **Dromcollogher** home of the National Dairy Co-Op Museum and hand crafted Irish Dresden. Travelling east through **Rath Luirc (Charleville)** on the **R515** you come to **Kilmallock** with its important mediaeval past and a great base from which to explore the Ballyhoura Mountains. Continue eastwards and watch out for the **R513** left turn for **Limerick**. This road brings you to **Hospital**, a village named for the Knights Hospitallers of Crusader times and where you will find remnants of their great church and a splendid effigy of a knight in armour. A short trip north brings you to see the habitat and artefacts of Neolithic Man in **Lough Gur**, one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites. And finally you return northwards to **Limerick City**.

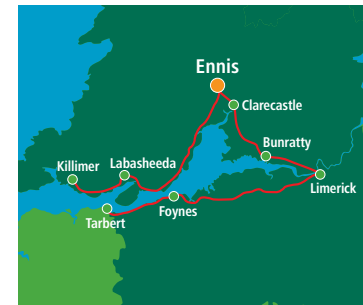
## ESTUARY DRIVE

**Route 15: Limerick City » Foynes » Tarbert » Killimer » Labasheeda » Killydysert » Clarecastle » Bunratty » Limerick City**

Distance: 207km (135 Miles)

The scenic drive along the **N69** takes you from Limerick City to North Kerry following the southern coastline of the **Shannon Estuary**, a magnificent stretch of tidal water. Here you'll find delightful towns and villages and world famous **shore fishing** sites. Relive the pioneering days of transatlantic aviation in the **Flying Boat Museum** in **Foynes**, home of the **Irish Coffee** drink which in the past warmed the cockles of one's heart while en route to North America and Europe. Further west, just over the Kerry border in Tarbert, you can journey across the Shannon Estuary to **County Clare** by ferry. While crossing, watch out for the bottlenose dolphins that live in the Shannon Estuary.

Disembark in **Killimer** and you can make a short diversion west to the maritime town of **Kilrush** before heading east along the shoreline to the pretty waterside villages of **Labasheeda** and **Kildysart**. The drive north eastwards will bring you to **Clarecastle** where you can divert a few kilometres north to the very attractive town of **Ennis**, the capital town of County Clare. Turning south your return journey to Limerick City brings you past **Shannon Airport** and one of Ireland's favourite tourist destinations, **Bunratty** village. **Bunratty Folk Park** recreates rural and urban life in 19th century Victorian Ireland while 15th century **Bunratty Castle** reveals the power struggles in Clare's past. Here too you will find excellent shopping and dining opportunities. And finally a short drive south brings you to **Cratloe Woods** where you can stretch your legs and admire the view before returning to **Limerick City**.



## ACTIVITIES



## LOOP HEAD PENINSULA

**Route 16: Kilrush »  
Carrigaholt » Kilbaha »  
Loop Head » Cross »  
Kilkee » Kilrush**

Distance: 81km (50 Miles)

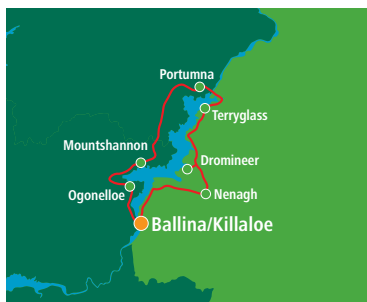


One of Clare's most scenic drives takes you around **Loop Head Peninsula**, the county's most south-westerly point. The cliff girdled peninsula with the Atlantic on one side and the Shannon Estuary on the other is one of Ireland's best kept secrets. Heading southwest of **Ennis** on the N68 you come to the maritime town of **Kilrush** on the Shannon Estuary. Follow the coast road to the small fishing village of **Carrigaholt** where you can buy freshly caught fish from Clare's Atlantic fishermen. Stop a while in **Kilbaha**, the last parish before America, before heading west to the very tip of Loop Head. The lighthouse that stands at the tip of Loop Head has been flashing its warning signal for 300 years. On the journey north park at the **Bridges of Ross** for sightings of rare seabirds. Continue on to the very popular seaside resort of **Kilkee** with its fabulous crescent beach and marvellous Victorian streetscape. On your return to **Kilrush** do make time to include a 20 minute ferry trip to the monastic ruins of **Scattery Island**.

## LOUGH DERG DRIVE

**Route 17: Ballina/Killaloe »  
Ogonelloe » Mountshannon »  
Portumna » Terryglass »  
Dromineer » Nenagh »  
Portroe » Ballina/Killaloe**

Distance: 125km (78 Miles)



**Lough Derg** is the largest and one of the most beautiful of the lakes on the **River Shannon**. There are many ways of enjoying the beauty of Lough Derg. Sailing, cruising or canoeing along its magnificent 40kms/25mils or travelling the roads that hug the shoreline. The picturesque twin towns of **Ballina/Killaloe**, sited at the southern tip of the lake provide the perfect starting point. Travelling clockwise around the lake you'll find one of the best viewing spots of the entire drive near the village of **Ogonelloe**. A little further north, the pretty village of **Mountshannon** is one of the busiest cruising and yachting centres on Lough Derg and a great place to stop and eat. **Portumna**, the town at the head of the lake, is another busy cruising centre with a delightful **Forest Park** to ramble in and a restored Castle to visit. Heading south along the eastern shore you come

to the charming village of **Terryglass**. You can continue to hug the shoreline to **Dromineer**, a great centre for fishing and boating, or head to the busy market town of **Nenagh**. Travel back to the lakeside through Newtown and drink in the views from **Portroe**. Your journey ends back at the southern tip in **Ballina/Killaloe** where excellent food and drink will complete an idyllic journey.

## BURREN BEAUTY

**Route 18: Kilfenora »  
Lisdoonvarna » Fanore »  
Black Head » Ballyvaughan »  
Carran » Kilfenora**

Distance: 68km (42 Miles)



The **Burren** region of Clare extends over 160 sq kilometres/100 sq miles. Mostly made up of bare, grey limestone rock, the weather has cracked and creviced the rock over time to produce amazing patterns on the land. Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the quieter waters of Galway Bay, the Burren is a rock garden of extraordinary proportions. The drive will bring you through mountainous terrain, beautiful sea views and unspoilt valleys. Your route encircles the Burren, beginning at the ancient cathedral town of **Kilfenora** with its excellent Burren Interpretive Centre.

The road westward leads through the spa town of **Lisdoonvarna**. Signposts for **Fanore** and **Black Head** show the way to the coast. Stop anywhere and enjoy the Atlantic air and amazing landscape. When travelling around **Black Head** watch out for the little lighthouse below the road and the distant hills of Connemara across Galway Bay. A few kilometres westward lies the charming coastal village of **Ballyvaughan**, a perfect spot to break your journey and to explore the **Ailwee Cave**. From Ailwee the road south will bring you past the ancient monuments of **The Poulnabrone Dolmen** and **Caherconnell Stone Fort**.

In **Carran** you could also visit the delightful **Burren Perfumery** for an extra sensory experience or learn about the founder of the greatest amateur sporting organisation in the world in **The Michael Cusack Centre**. To the south of Poulnabrone the ruins of **Lemanah Castle** stand by the roadside. A right turn there would bring you back to **Kilfenora** completing the circuit. But the left turn sets you on the way to **Ennis**. Passing the beautiful **Lough Inchiquin** you come to **Corofin** where the **Clare Heritage Centre** offers a genealogical research service. Round off your trip in **Ennis** where you'll have your choice of accommodation and fine dining.

## ACTIVITIES

## THE ATLANTIC DRIVE

**Route 19: Ennis » Lisdoonvarna » Ballyvaughan » Blackhead » Doolin » Cliffs of Moher » Lahinch » Spanish Point » Kilkee » Ennis**

Distance: 204km (127 Miles)



A north to south route along Clare's Atlantic coastline is a memorable journey. Travel south along the spectacular road that hugs the coastline around **Black Head** and watch the Atlantic rollers break on the beach in **Fanore**. Take time to enjoy the cream of Irish traditional music in **Doolin** village or to visit the dramatic Doolin Cave. Stand on the **Cliffs of Moher** world renowned for their scale and beauty and gaze at the ocean below. Enjoy the panoramic views of the Aran Islands and the Atlantic Coast. Continue south to eat ice cream on the sheltered golden sands of **Lahinch** and **Spanish Point**, named in memory of the wreck of Spanish Armada ships in 1588 and finish your journey in the lively sea-side town of **Kilkee**. This route can also begin and end in Ennis heading first for **Ballyvaughan** and returning from **Kilkee**.

### ACTIVITIES



POULNABRONE DOLMEN, THE BURREN, CO. CLARE



WINDSURFING, CO. MAYO

# Adventure & Water Sports

The rugged scenery, crystal clear waters and winds sweeping in off the Atlantic Ocean, make the west of Ireland perfect for lovers of the outdoors and adventure of all kinds. Whether you're a fair weather adventurer just hoping for a little fresh air, or a dedicated adrenaline junkie in search of your next thrill, you'll have a great choice of outdoor pursuits on your doorstep.

One of the best ways to appreciate the incredible scenery is to get out there and be a part of it. Coillte, Ireland's leading forestry company has 25 recreation sites in counties Clare, Galway, Limerick and Mayo. For further information visit [www.coillteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coillteoutdoors.ie)

> **Boating** Island scattered waters, calm bays and dramatic coastline coupled with the River Shannon and inland lakes all make the West of Ireland the perfect location for all types of boating and water sports.

> **Scuba Diving** Water clarity and an abundance of sea life attract divers from all over to this area. The main dive locations are to be found around the offshore islands and include everything from the easier beginners dives to the more advanced wreck diving.

> **Surfing & Wind Surfing** The West coast experiences the awesome power of the Atlantic winds and so is an ideal location for all forms of surfing. The best waves are in April and May and again in September and October, but even at the busiest times the surfing beaches are rarely crowded.

> **Walking & Cycling** We're not short of experienced and entertaining guides who provide a wide range of services, from day trips to more extended walking and cycling packages.

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## ACTIVITIES





KITE SURFING, GALWAY



### ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
MAYO	Achill Outdoor Educational Centre	Adventure activities for youth and adult groups	Cashel, Bunacurry, Achill Island.	098 47253/47304 www.achilloutdoor.com
	Atlantic Adventure Centre	Adventure & leisure activity programmes for adults & children	Lecanvey, Westport	098 64806 www.atlanticadventurecentre.com
	UISCE Gaeltacht & Adventure Centre	Activity based Gaeltacht adventure centre	Cuan Eili, Belmullet	097 82111 www.uisce.com
	Tomas McLochlainn	Surfing, mountaineering and adventure courses in Achill Island	Achill Sound, Achill Island	098 45085 www.members.achilltourism.com/ tomasmaclochlainn
	Achill Adventures Boat Trips	Sightseeing boat trips from Westport & Achill	Dugort, Achill Island	085 1311453 www.achilladventures.com
	Broadhaven Marine Training	Powerboat and Jet Ski activities for all ages and abilities	Belmullet	086 2422567 www.marinetraining.ie
	Ireland West Sea Kayaking/Saoirse na Mara	Sea kayaking courses and guided trips	Westport	086 1733610 www.irelandwestseakayaking.com
	Ireland's School of Falconry	Fly a hawk, in a one hour hawk walk	Ashford Castle, Cong	094 9546820/0872976092 www.falconry.ie
	Glenans Irish Sailing Club	Sailing courses for all levels and abilities	Collanmore Island, Rosmoney Pier, Westport	01 6611481 www.gisc.ie
	Leaders Charter Ltd	Skipped private charter	Upper Quay, Westport	086 8090476 www.leaderscharter.com
	Achill Island Scuba Dive Centre	Daily boat dives	Purteen Harbour, Keel, Achill Island	087 2349884 www.achilldivecentre.com
	Allplay Windsurfing	Ireland's newest windsurfing school	Bertra Strand, Murrisk	086 3070975 www.allplay.ie
	Dive West Ireland	Scuba diving in West Ireland	Surgeview, Blacksod, Belmullet	086 8365983 www.divewestireland.com
GALWAY	Surf Mayo	Surf lessons	Carrowniskey, Louisburgh	087 6212508 www.surfmayo.com
	The Surf Coach	Surf lessons	The Sandybanks, Keel, Achill Island	086 2288566 www.achill-surf-lessons.com
	Windwise Windsurfing	Windsurfing Courses	Keel, Achill Island	098 43958 or 086 4023068 www.windwise.ie
	Croagh Patrick Walking Tours	Escorted guided walking tours in Mayo	Belclare, Westport	098 26090 or 087 2333295 www.walkingguideireland.com
	Westport House	Adventure Activity Centre including zorbing, canoeing, archery & clay pigeon shooting	Westport	098 26907 www.westporthouse.ie
	West Coast Adventure Tours & Surf School	Surf lessons from Westport	Westport, Co Mayo	087 0611557 www.westcoastadventuretours.ie
	Delphi Mountain Resort	Adventure & activity centre with a variety of ocean, forest & mountain based activities for adults & children	Delphi, Leenane	095 42208 www.delphimountainresort.com
	Petersburg Outdoor Adventure Centre	Adventure sports activities and challenging expeditions for all age groups	Clonbur	094 9546483 www.petersburg.ie
	Killary Cruises	Cruise with views of spectacular scenery	Nancy's Point, Leenane, Connemara	091 566736 or 1800 415151 www.killarycruises.com
	Western Exposure Safari	Specialising in bringing people to generally inaccessible wilderness regions	Letterfrack	095 41132 or 087 2349543 www.westernexplorer.net
	Corrib Canoe Courses	A series of week-long courses in kayaking	NUIG Kayak Club, Galway City	087 7435644 or 086 3352900 www.corribcanoe.com
	Kayakmor-Galway Seakayak Tours	Kayak tours along Galway's coast	Galway City & Lough Corrib	093 36097/087 7565578 www.kayakmor.com

## ACTIVITIES



SAILING ON LOUGH DERG



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

### ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
GALWAY	Serious Sailing	Practical sailing courses	Bunowen Pier, Ballyconneely, Clifden 095 23569 or 086 2400307 www.seriousailing.com
	Scubadive West	Scubadive centre and dive school	Renvyle 095 43922 www.scubadivewest.com
	Rusheen Bay Windsurfing	One of Ireland's leading windsurfing schools. Located just outside Galway City	Barna Road, Salthill 091 581974 or 087 2605702 www.rusheenbay.com
	Connemara Safaris	Specialists in Island Hopping	c/o Abbey Glen Hotel, Sky Road, Clifden 095 21071 or 1850777200 www.walkingconnemara.com
	Killary Tours & Irish Cycling Tours	Self-guided & guided cycling, walking, horse riding and family adventure tours	Leenane 095 42276 www.killarytours.com
	Pure Skill	Indoor Sports and Leisure Arena	Galway City, East 091 515510 www.pureskill.ie
	Pallas Karting	Europe's largest karting centre	Tynagh, Loughrea, co. Galway 090 9745147 www.pallaskarting.com
	Killary Adventure Centre	One of Ireland's longest running adventure providers	Leenane, Co. Galway 095 43411 www.killaryadventure.ie
	Paddle on the Prom	Stand up paddle boarding on Salthill Promenade	Salthill, Galway 086 0245588 www.paddleonthe-prom.com
Galway City Karting	Galway City indoor karting	Tuam Rd., Galway City 091 440136 www.galwaycitykarting.ie	
CLARE	Aloha Surf School	Surfing lessons for all age groups. No experience necessary and all equipment provided	Fanore 087 2133996 www.surfschool.tv
	Atlantic Air Adventure	The ultimate thrill for flight enthusiasts.	Shannon 087 2037487 www.atlanticairventure.com
	Atlantic Diving School	Discover the magical waters of West Clare	Ennis 065 6842755 www.atlanticdivingschool.ie
	Ben's Surf Clinic	Mobile coaching unit which can set up and run clinics anywhere there are decent waves	Lahinch 086 8448622 www.bensurfclicin.com
	Ben's Rock Climbing Clinic	Climb, abseil and push your boundaries	The Burren 086 8448622 www.bensrockclimbingclinic.com
	Born 2 Ride Kite surfing School	Discover the excitement of Kite surfing in a safe environment	Lahinch 087 2060177 www.lahinchkitesuringschool.com
	Burren Adventures Dive Centre	Scuba diving courses and experiences for all levels	"Sunfish", Aughinish 065 7078914 www.burrenadvntures.com
	Burren Outdoor Education Centre	Caving, canoeing, sailing, orienteering, rock climbing, hill walking and much more	Turlough, Bellharbour 065 7078066 www.burrenoec.com
	Dolphin Discovery Kilrush	Discover the magic of the Shannon Dolphins	Kilrush 065 9051327 www.discoverdolphins.ie
	Dolphinwatch Carrigaholt	Watch and learn about resident dolphins, seabirds, seals and more	Carrigaholt 065 9058156 www.dolphinwatch.ie
	Doolin Ferries	Sailings from Doolin to the Aran Islands	Doolin Pier 065 7074 455 www.doolinferries.com
	Doolin2Aran Ferries	Offering daily sailings (April to October) to the Aran Islands and the Cliffs of Moher	Doolin Pier and Liscannor Pier 087 2453239 www.mohercruises.com
	Dromoland Clay Pigeon Shooting	Clay Pigeon shooting year-round	Newmarket on Fergus 087 2534955
	Green Room Surf School & Shop	Surf lessons and all equipment supplied	Lahinch 087 9833019 www.greenroomlahinch.com
	Holy Island Tour	Enjoy a boat trip and guided tour	Mountshannon 086 8749710 www.eastclareheritage.com
Irish Activity Holidays	Customised packages for individuals and groups to include a variety of activities	Newmarket on Fergus 061 366999 www.irishactivityholidays.com	
Kilrush Marina	Offering a unique blend of facilities and attractions	Kilrush 065 9052072 www.kilrushcreekmarina.ie	
Adventure Kayaking Tours	Experience the secret treasures along the coast. All equipment provided.	Doolin 085 1195489 www.northclareseakayaking.com	

## ACTIVITIES



SURFING, LAHINCH, CO. CLARE



### ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
CLARE	Lahinch Surf School	Learn to surf with Irish Surfing Champion John McCarthy's Lahinch Surf School	Lahinch 087 9609667 www.lahinchsurfschool.com
	Lakeside Watersports Centre	The park offers a range of activities	Mountshannon 061 927225
	Lough Derg Powerboat School	Power boat and motor cruiser training courses	Killaloe, Ballina 061 375474 www.boatschool.ie
	Nevsail Watersports	Courses in sailing, windsurfing, power boating, kayaking and canoeing. Summer camps also available	The Promenade, Kilkee 086 3308236 www.nevsailwatersports.com
	O'Callaghan Angling & Cruising	Caters for anglers, cruisers, divers, surf riders, photographers, ornithologists, dolphin and whale-watchers	Liscannor 065 6821374 www.o'callaghanangling.com
	Ocean Scene Surf School	Offer one off lessons or three or five day courses	Lahinch 086 8120400 www.oceanscene.ie
	Oceanlife Dive and Watersports Centre	PADI 5 Star Diving resort	East End, Kilkee 065 9056707 www.oceanlife.ie
	Orbital Winds	Offering a range of Kite surfing courses	Lahinch 087 0659338 www.orbitalwinds.com
	Rodgers Cruise & Lake boat Hire	Day trips, short breaks, or weekends	 087 9883698
	Rural Irish Holidays	All in guided holiday in rural Ireland, East Clare.	 087 98 98 888 www.ruralirishholidays.com
	Scatterly Island Ferries	Escape the hustle and bustle, cars and noise on a trip to Scatterly Island	Kilrush 065 9051327 www.discoverdolphins.ie
	Shannon Castle Line	Fully equipped modern 2-8 berth cruisers for hire	Williamstown Harbour, Whitegate 061 927042 www.shannoncruisers.com
	Shannon Ferry Group	20 minute journey links the main tourist routes of the West of Ireland	Killimer, Kilrush 065 905312 www.shannonferries.com
Spirit of Killaloe River Cruises	Luxury 50 seater passenger boat	Killaloe 086 8140559	
Spirit of Lough Derg Cruises	Tours on a 12 seater passenger boat	Killaloe, Ballina 086 8140559 www.spiritofloughderg.com	
University Of Limerick Activity Centre	Safe, fun and educational activity sessions	Killaloe 061 376622 www.ulac.ie	
LIMERICK	Abbey Speedway Karting Centre	A fun day out for all	Mountmahon, Abbeyfeale 068 51829 www.abbeyfealekarting.com
	Athlunkard Boat Club	Full calendar of events	Limerick City 061 302160 http://athlunkard.blogspot.com/
	Ballyhoura Orienteering	Go quad biking, abseiling, windsurfing, rock climbing, walking or bird-watching	Main Street, Kilfinane 063 91300 www.ballyhouracountry.com
	Castleconnell Boat Club	Full calendar of events	Castleconnell 061 377746 www.castleconnellbc.ie
	Combat Zone	Play in over 20 acres of natural woodland	Shanagolden 061 302031 www.combatzone.ie
	Kilcoman Karting	The ultimate karting experience	Kilcoman 061 393728 www.limerickkarting.com
	Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre	Canoeing, kayaking, surfing, hill-walking, rock climbing, mountain biking, abseiling, indoor climbing wall, orienteering, team challenges and more	Kilfinane 063 91161 www.kilfinaneoeec.ie
	Lazy Dog Clay Bird Shooting	All weather clay bird shooting ground	Kilfinane 062 53563
	Limerick Wake & Ski	Sessions for beginners or groups, all equipment supplied	Castleconnell 087 7868689 www.limerickwakeandski.com
	National Kart Centre Limerick	The largest indoor karting track in Ireland	Corbally 061 340161 www.nationalkartcentre.ie
	Shannon Estuary RIB Tours	Experience thrill and adventure on the river Shannon	Killard, Ardagh 086 8140833 www.ribtours.ie
	Shannon Rowing Club	Affiliated to the Irish Amateur Rowing Union	Sarsfield Bridge, Limerick City 061 415150
	University Arena	For the basic beginner to the Olympic champion. Exceptional outdoor and indoor facilities	University of Limerick, Castletroy 061 213555 www.universityarena.com

## ACTIVITIES





CATHEDRAL BEAT, BALLINA, CO. MAYO

# Angling

Pristine waters, a wealth of fish and hundreds of miles of coastline, riverbank and lakeshore, it's a dream holiday for devotees of rod and line! The West is home to some of the finest game, coarse and sea angling the country has to offer.

> **Trout Fishing** The Western Lakes are recognised as some of the greatest wild brown trout fisheries in the world and regularly produce specimen fish. Lough Corrib is the most famous. Lough Mask and Lough Conn are exceptional trout fisheries, while the Moy Estuary is the ideal location for sea trout.

> **Salmon Fishing** The River Moy is one of the most prolific salmon rivers in Europe. The famous Ridge Pool draws thousands of anglers each year. Castleconnell Salmon Fishery on the River Shannon is another renowned fishery. There are dozens more rivers to choose from in the West also offering superb salmon fishing, all in spectacular countryside.

> **Coarse Fishing** Anglers favouring coarse fishing should head for the inland rivers and lakes of Galway East and Clare. Numerous rivers and streams flow into the River Shannon offering some of the best pike and coarse fish stocks in Ireland.

> **Sea Fishing** The waters off the west coast are warmed by the Gulf Stream, ensuring a longer season and an unusual variety of warm-water fish. There is excellent shore fishing to be had at numerous locations along the coast.

## Do I need a licence to fish in Ireland?

In Ireland you do not need a license to fish for trout, coarse species or in the sea. However, if you intend to fish for salmon or sea trout you must have a State Salmon & Sea Trout Fishing License (both available as a National License or a District License). Permits are required for private fisheries.

For information about the regulations for fishing in Ireland, visit [www.fishinginireland.ie](http://www.fishinginireland.ie)

## ACTIVITIES



PIKE FISHING, WEST OF IRELAND



## COARSE &amp; PIKE ANGLING IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
GALWAY	Moycullen Lakes	Pike, Roach, Rudd, Bream and Hybrids	Western Regional Fisheries, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, Galway	091 563118 www.wrfb.ie
	Lough Corrib	Pike		
	Lough Derg	Pike, Roach, Rudd, Bream and Hybrids	Shannon Regional Fisheries, Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick	061 300238 www.shrfb.ie
	River Suck and Suck Catchment Lakes	Pike, Roach, Rudd, Tench and Bream	Shannon Regional Fisheries, Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick	061 300238 www.shrfb.ie
CLARE	R. Shannon & Lower Lough Derg	Pike, Bream, Roach, Hybrids	O'Briens Bridge & Killaloe	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Lough Derg	Pike and Coarse fish	Lough Derg	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Lough Graney	Pike, perch, bream	East Clare	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Lough Bridget	Bream, pike, perch, hybrids	East Clare	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Kilgory Lough	Tench, rudd, hybrids, pike, perch	East Clare	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Doon Lough	Bream, rudd, roach, perch, pike	East Clare	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Doon River (Owenagarny River)	Bream, rudd, roach, hybrids, perch, pike	East Clare	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Clondorney Lough	Rudd, bream	East Clare	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Clondanagh Lough	Bream	East Clare	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	River Fergus System and Lakes	Pike, perch, bream, tench, rudd, eels	Ennis	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
Lough Caum	Bream, rudd, roach, hybrids, perch, pike	Ennis	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie	
LIMERICK	Camoge River	Fly fishing only - trout	Croom	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Blacks Lake	Bream, roach, hybrids, pike	Limerick City	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Dromore Lough	Pike, rudd	Kildimo	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Glasha Lake	Rainbow trout	Athea, Co. Limerick	www.glashalake.com
	Lough Gur	Rudd, pike	Lough Gur	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	R. Shannon & Lower Lough Derg	Pike, bream, roach, tench	Limerick City	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	River Shannon	Bream, tench, rudd, roach, hybrids, eels, pike, perch	Castleconnell	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
MAVO	Lough Mask	Pike and Perch	Western Regional Fisheries, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, Galway	091 563118 www.wrfb.ie

## ACTIVITIES



BALLYNAFINCH, CONNEMARA



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

### GAME ANGLING IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
MAYO	Attymass Salmon Fishery	Salmon	Attymass Angling, c/o. Mr. P. Gaughan or Mr. P. Garret. Carrowkerribla, Attymass	094 9258147/094 9258151
	Burrishoole Fishery	Salmon and Sea Trout	Marine Institute, Furness, Newport	098 42300353/087 2377078 www.marine.ie
	East Mayo Anglers Association	Salmon, Brown Trout and Sea Trout	EAST Mayo Angler's Office, Market Street, Swinford	094 9253955 www.eastmayoanglers.com
	Lough Conn	Brown Trout	Northern Western Regional Fisheries Board, Ardnaree House, Abbey Street, Ballina	096 22788 www.northwestfisheries.ie
	Lough Cullen	Salmon and Brown Trout	Northern Western Regional Fisheries Board, Ardnaree House, Abbey Street, Ballina	096 22788 www.northwestfisheries.ie
	The Cong Canal	Brown Trout	Western Fisheries Board, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, The Weir, Galway City	091 563118 www.wrfb.ie
	Lough Carra	Brown Trout	Western Fisheries Board, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, The Weir, Galway City	091 563118 www.wrfb.ie
	Lough Mask	Brown Trout	Western Fisheries Board, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, The Weir, Galway City	091 563118 www.wrfb.ie
	Robe River	Brown Trout	Western Fisheries Board, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, The Weir, Galway City	091 563118 www.wrfb.ie
	Mount Falcon Fishery	Salmon	Mount Falcon Fisheries, Foxford Road, Ballina	096 74472 www.mountfalcon.com
	The River Moy	Salmon	North Western Regional Fisheries Board, Ardnaree House, Abbey Street, Ballina	096 22788 www.northwestfisheries.ie
	Newport House River Fishery	Salmon, Sea Trout Catch and Release	Newport House, Newport	098 41222 www.newporthouse.ie
Owenmore River	Salmon and Sea Trout	Bangor Sporting Club, Bangor, Ballina	097 83487 www.bangorerrisangling.com	
GALWAY	Costello and Fermoyale Fisheries	Salmon Sea and Brown Trout	Bridge Cottage, Costello	091 572196 E: terrygal7@gmail.com
	Crumlin Fishery	Small Sea Trout and a small run of Gristle	c/o. Costello and Fermoyale Fishery, Costello	091 572196 E: terrygal7@gmail.com
	Delphi Fishery	Wet Fly fishing	Leenane	095 42222 www.delphi-salmon.com
	Doohula Fishery	Fishery with Brown Trout and occasional Salmon	Emlaghmore Lodge, Ballyconneely	095 23529 www.emlaghmore.com
	Kylemore Abbey Fishery	Salmon and Sea Trout	Kylemore Abbey Fishery, Kylemore	095 41178 www.kylemoreabbeyfishery.com
	Lough Corrib	Lough Corrib is Ireland's Largest fishing lake	Western Fisheries Board, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, The Weir	091 563110 www.wrfb.ie
	Lough Inagh Fishery	Salmon, Gristle, Brown Trout and Sea Trout	Lough Inagh Lodge, Hotel, Recess	095 34706 www.loughinaghlodgehotel.com
	Screebe Fishery	Sea Trout and Salmon Fishery	Screebe House, Camus, Connemara	091 574110 scribhse@iol.ie
	River Erriff Fishery	Salmon and Sea Trout	Aasleagh Lodge, Leenane	095 42252 www.aasleaghlodge.ie
	Anglers Return Loughs	Mainly Brown Trout and some Sea Trout	The Anglers Return, Toombeola, Roundstone	095 31091 www.anglersreturn.com
	Galway Fishery (Salmon Weir)	Salmon	Western Fisheries Board, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, The Weir	091 563110 www.wrfb.ie
	Clare River	Trout	Western Fisheries Board, Weir Lodge, Earls Island, The Weir	091 563110 www.wrfb.ie
	Ballynahinch Castle Fishery	Salmon, Brown Trout and Sea Trout	Ballynahinch, Recess	095 31006 www.ballynahinch-castle.com

## ACTIVITIES



## GAME ANGLING IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web	
CLARE	Ballyteige Lough	Trout	Corofin	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Cloon River	Sea trout	Kilmurry McMahon	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Creagh River	Grilse, sea & brown trout	Cree	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Dealagh River	Sea trout	Liscannor	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Doo Lough	Brown trout	Mullagh	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Doonbeg River	Salmon, sea trout	Doonbeg	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Dromore Lough Ballyline Lough	Trout	Corofin	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	East Clare Lakeland and Rivers	Trout	Scarriff	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Gortagannive Lough Gortagannive Reservoir	Brown trout	Kilmaley	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Gortglass Lough	Brown trout	Corofin	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Inchiquin Lough	Brown trout	Corofin	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Kildeemea River	Grilse, sea trout	Spanish Point	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Knockerra Lough	Brown trout	Kilrush	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Lickeen Lake	Brown & Rainbow Trout	Ennistymon	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Lough Achryane	Brown trout	Kilrush	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Lough Cullaun Monanagh Lake	Trout	Corofin	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Lough Derg	Trout	Killaloe	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Lough Donnell Annagheeragh River	Sea trout	Milltown Malbay	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Luogh Lough	Brown & rainbow trout	Kilshanny	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Muckanagh Lough Tullymacken Lough	Brown trout	Corofin	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
Rathlahine Trout Angling	Rainbow & brown trout	Newmarket-on-Fergus	www.wix.com/fintanmehan/rt	
River Fergus System and Lakes	Salmon, brown trout	Ennis	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie	
River Rine	Grilse, sea trout, brown trout	Quin	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie	
Rockmount Lake Lough Keagh	Brown trout	Milltown Malbay	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie	
LIMERICK	Glasla Lake	Trout, fly-fishing.	Athea	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Mulcair River	Salmon, brown trout, grilse	Annacotty & Limerick City	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Castleconnell Fishery	Salmon	Ardnacrusha	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	River Shannon	Salmon, brown trout	Castleconnell	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Bleach Lough	Brown trout, rainbow trout.	Mount Pleasant, Kildimo	www.bleachloughanglers.ie
	Dohayle Lake	Brown trout, rainbow trout	Rathkeale	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	River Feale	Salmon, brown trout	Abbeyfeale	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	River Maigue	Trout, grilse	Adare	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie
	Camoge River	Trout, fly-fishing.	Croom	www.shannon-fishery-board.ie

The West Counties  
Pocket Guide

ANGLING COTTAGE IN CONNEMARA



## ACTIVITIES



SEA ANGLING OFF THE WEST COAST



### SEA ANGLING IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
MAYO	Achill Sea Angling	Shark Angling, Diving and Fishing trips	Cashel, Achill Island	098 47257 www.angling.irl.com
	Brú Chlann Lir Boat Charters	Mixed Fishing	Tirrane, Clogher, Belmullet	097 85741 www.bruchlannlir.com
	Clew Bay Sea Angling	Reef and Bottom Fishing	Clynish View, Derrada, Newport	086 8062282 www.clewbayangling.com
	Dive West Ireland	Boat Charters for Diving, Sea Angling and Island Tours	Belmullet Dive Centre, Blacksod, Belmullet	086 8365983 www.fishwestireland.com
	Enniscrone/Killala Angling Charter	Sea Angling	Atlantic Mist, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo	096 36644 www.dkennedyangling.net
	The Helm-Sea Angling and Boat Charter	Sea Angling and Boat Charter	The Helm, Westport Harbour, Westport	098 26194 www.thehelm.ie
	Lady Helen	36ft boat operating on Clew Bay, Clare Island and Inishturk	Angling Charters, Rosmoney, Westport	098 26514
GALWAY	Blue Water Fishing	Reef and Shark Fishing.	Shamore House, Streamstown, Clifden	095 21073 www.seafishingireland.net
	The Brazen Hussy Charter Boat	Scuba Diving, Island Tours, Bird Watching and Sea Angling.	Derryinver, Letterfrack	086 2795118 www.brazenhussy.ie
	Galway Fishing	Deep Sea Fishing	Spiddal Pier, Spiddal, Co. Galway	086 3234638 www.galwayfishing.ie
	Galway Bay Fishing	Sea Fishing	Spiddal Pier, Spiddal, Co. Galway	086 8547890 www.galwaybayfishing.com
	Ireland West Angling	Angling Guide	Aille, Inverin	087 2509722 www.irelandwestangling.com
	Sea Fishing - Mr John Ryan	Shark, Reef and Bottom Fishing	Dun Aengus House, Skye Road, Clifden	095 21069 www.celticqueen.com
	Tarrea Queen Tours	Eco Tours, Sea Angling and Dive Charters	Kinvara Pier/Galway Docks	091 635465 www.tarreaqueentours.ie
	Western Kingfisher - Sea Angling	Sea Angling	Dock Road, Cleggan	095 44649 www.clegganseaangling.com
CLARE	O'Callaghan Sea Angling	Offering excellent deep sea fishing out of Liscannor.	Ennis	065 6821374 www.o'callaghanangling.com
	Carrigaholt Sea Angling Centre	Offering the complete sea fishing holiday.	Carrigaholt	065 9058209 www.fishandstay.com
	Shannon Sea Angling	Deep sea angling charter boat operator from Kilrush Harbour	Kilrush	087 2281584
	Martin Brennan	Sea Fishing Boat Hire Operator.	Kilrush	065 9052031
	West Coast Angling	Fish on the shores of the mighty Atlantic ocean	Lahinch	086 883 8166 www.westcoastangling.ie
	Go Fishing Adventure Centre	Deep sea angling charter boat from the magnificent Loop Head peninsula.	Kilrush	065 905 8174 www.gofishing.ie

## ACTIVITIES



# Beaches

We're lucky to have so many clean and sandy beaches dotted all along the coastline here for all to enjoy. Many have the prestigious Blue Flag Beach Award and numerous others the Green Coast Award.

## Blue Flag Beaches



The Blue Flag is an international, voluntary eco-label for beaches and marinas and is awarded only to those that meet a specific set of criteria including:

- Environmental information & education
- Water quality
- Safety & services
- Environmental Management

The Blue Flag programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote good environmental behaviour among visitors and local populations and best practice among beach and marina management and staff. Within Ireland the programme is operated by An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland. Tel: 01 4002210 or visit [www.beachawards.ie](http://www.beachawards.ie) for more information.

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## ACTIVITIES



## BLUE FLAG BEACHES IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

Name	Location	
MAYO	Dooega	Achill Island
	Keem	Achill Island
	Mullaghroe	Belmullet
	The Harbour	Clare Island
	Bertra	Murrisk, Westport
	Carrowmore	Louisburgh
	Dugort	Achill Island
	Elly Bay	Belmullet
	Ross	Killala
	Old Head	Louisburgh
	Golden Strand	Achill Island
	Keel	Achill Island
	Mulranny	Mulranny
	GALWAY	Kilmurvey
Salthill		Galway City
Loughrea Lake		Loughrea
Silver Strand		Barna
Traught		Kinvara
Ceibh an Spidéal		Spiddal
CLARE	Tra an Doilín	Carraroe
	Tra Mhor	Inverin
	Cappa Pier	Kilrush
	Kilkee	Kilkee
	Doonbeg	Doonbeg
	White Strand	Miltown Malbay
	Lahinch	Lahinch
	Fanore	Ballyvaughan
	Ballycuggeran	Killaloe
	Mountshannon	Mountshannon

## Green Coast Award Beaches



Green Coast Awards are awarded to beaches for their natural beauty, clean environment and water quality. These beaches may not have the built infrastructure required for Blue Flag status, but Green Coast Award beaches are wonderful places to visit and to enjoy our rich coastal heritage and diversity. The Green Coast

Award programme is also operated by An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland. Tel: 01 4002210 or visit [www.beachawards.ie](http://www.beachawards.ie) for more information.

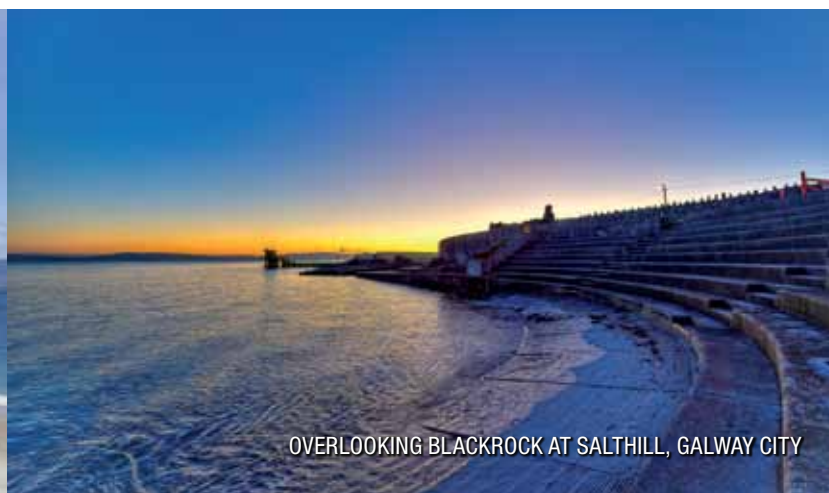
## GREEN COAST AWARD BEACHES IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

Name	Location		
MAYO	Trá Inis Óirr	Inis Óirr, Aran Islands	
	Dog's Bay	Roundstone	
	East End	Inishbofin	
	Dumhach	Inishbofin	
	Salthill	Galway City	
	Aillebrack	Ballyconneely	
	Silverstrand	Barna	
	GALWAY	Whitestrang	Louisburgh
		Termon	Aghleam
		Srah	Doohoma
Cross		Louisburgh	
Silver Strand		Louisburgh	
Portacloy		Belmullet	
MAYO	Ballycastle	Ballycastle	
	Carrowniskey	North Mayo	

## ACTIVITIES



KEEM BEACH, ACHILL ISLAND, CO. MAYO



OVERLOOKING BLACKROCK AT SALTHILL, GALWAY CITY



HORSE RIDING, BERTRA BEACH, CO. MAYO

# Equestrian

The West's beautiful scenery lends itself so well to horse riding, so why not take your next holiday on horseback?



There are 13 Fáilte Ireland Approved Equestrian Centres located in the West of Ireland. These Centres are recognised by Fáilte Ireland as offering the highest of standards.

These days, holidays close to home are definitely more popular. The West of Ireland has some of the best riding breaks you could wish for. Whether you are a proficient rider or an enthusiastic amateur, there are horse riding choices to suit you. Whichever you pick, one thing is for sure – you'll end the day on a fresh air high and with a smile on your face! Why not take the opportunity to explore the west coast of Ireland famous for its varied dramatic and beautiful scenery. And what better way to explore than on horseback?

There are many horse riding options available to you in Clare, Galway, Limerick and Mayo. Consequently if you are looking for an exhilarating gallop on a long sandy beach, a leisurely hack on a quiet country road or a challenging cross-country trail through some of Ireland's most beautiful countryside there is something here for everyone in the West of Ireland.

For more information on horse riding in the West of Ireland visit [www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian](http://www.discoverireland.ie/equestrian) or [www.ehi.ie](http://www.ehi.ie)

## ACTIVITIES



### FAOFA EQUESTRIAN CENTRES IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Address	Telephone	Email & Web
GALWAY	Dartfield Horse Park & Museum	Dartfield House, Killeekil, Loughrea	091 843968 or 087 2664364	tct@eircom.net
	Errislannan Manor Connemara Pony Stud & Riding Centre	Clifden	095 21134	errislannanmanor@eircom.net
	Galway Equestrian Centre	Peakroe, Athenry	091 844101 or 086 1713601	galwayequestrian@eircom.net
	Loughrea Equestrian Centre	Loughaun, Kinadeema, Loughrea	091 847077 or 087 1206664	info@horsetrailireland.com
	Slieve Aughty Riding Centre	Kylebrack, Loughrea	0909 745246 or 087 6871769	esterzyderlaan@eircom.net
MAVO	Drumindoo Stud	Knockranny, Westport	098 25616 or 087 2713974	drumindoo@anu.ie
	Upper Mace Stables	Upper Mace, Claremorris	094 9388668 or 087 4178388	noeljoanwalsh@eircom.net
	Westport Woods Riding Centre	Bohea, Liscarney, Westport	098 25811 or 087 2605672	mlennon@westportwoodshotel.com
CLARE	An Sibin Riding Centre	Derryoran East, Whitegate	061 927411/ 087 2527713	info@irishhorseriding.com www.irishhorseriding.com
	Clonlara Equestrian Centre	Clonlara	061 354172/ 087 6892373	clonlaraequest2@eircom.net www.clonlaraequestrian.com
LIMERICK	Clonshire Equestrian Centre	Adare	061 396770/ 087 8131219	info@clonshire.com www.clonshire.com
	Fitzgerald's Equestrian Centre	The Hill, Abbeyfeale	068 31217/ 087 2360628	fitzfarmhouse@eircom.net www.fitzgeraldsfarmhouse.com
	Hillcrest Equestrian Centre	Hillcrest House, Galbally	062 37915/ 087 1250915	hillcrestcentre@eircom.net www.hillcrestequestrian.com

## ACTIVITIES



CONNEMARA PONY AT AUGRUS LAKE, CONNEMARA



## EQUESTRIAN IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Address	Telephone	Email & Web
MAYO	Ard Aoihbhinn Stables	Cappaghduff, Tourmakeady	094 9544009 or 087 9742831	info@loughmaskholidays.com
	Ashford Equestrian Centre	Cong	094 9546507 or 087 9401124	ashfordsports@eircom.net
	Ballyjennings Stables	Ballinrobe	094 9520656 or 087 9404689	info@horsetrekkingireland.com
	Barnfield House Equestrian centre	Knockmore, Ballina	094 9258175 or 087 6565015	scottofbarnfield@yahoo.com
	Claremorris Equestrian Centre	Galway Rd., Claremorris	094 9362292	info@hanleyshorses.com
	Duvillaun Riding Centre	Clogher, Belmullet	097 85811 or 087 2834511	monaghanjacqueline@gmail.com
	Iceford Stables	Iceford, Ballina	096 70776 or 087 0555770	icefordstable@gmail.com
	Turlough Equestrian Centre	Rockfield, Turlough, Castlebar	094 9026646 or 087 4178388	mjoycebbs4@yahoo.ie
GALWAY	Arun Nua	Killina, Gort	091 638865 or 087 2772919	randallised@gmail.com
	Claregalway Equestrian Centre	Rockwood, Claregalway	091 798289 or 087 8137212	mark@duffyquestrian.com
	Creagh Equestrian Centre	Newtown, Creagh, Ballinasloe	0909 643105 or 087 2254227	creaghequestriancentre@googlemail.com
	Eve's Equestrian Centre	Cloonascragh, Tuam	086 8291238	quinnhaulage@hotmail.co.uk
	Knockillaree Riding Centre	Knockillaree, Oughterard	087 9604517	rogerjoyce04@yahoo.ie
	Moycullen Riding Centre	Poul-na-clough, Moycullen	087 2043944	info@moycullenriding.com
	Parkmore Stables	Parkmore, Creagh, Ballinasloe	090 9643994 or 087 8380151	parkmorestables@hotmail.com
	Rockmount Riding Centre	Claregalway	091 798147 or 086 8224240	rockmountrc@eircom.net
	The Point Trekking Centre	Keeraunmore, Ballyconneely	095 23685 or 087 2468294	annsteyaert56@hotmail.com
CLARE	Banner Equestrian	Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis	065 6823487/ 086 2772616	noelsimonebarry@eircom.net www.bannerequestrian.com
	Castlefergus Riding Stables	Castlefergus, Quin, Ennis	065 6825914/ 087 9731145	castlefergusridingstables@hotmail.com
	Clare Equestrian Centre	Deerpark, Doorra, Co. Clare	065 6840136/ 086 2673690	info@clareequestrian.com www.clareequestrian.com
	West Clare Equestrian	Tullabrack, Kilrush	065 9059115/ 087 2865010	roisinlatham@hotmail.com
	Woodfield Equestrian Centre	Woodfield, Broadford	087 2310428/ 061 473909	ralphsweeney@eircom.net www.woodfieldequestrian.ie
LIMERICK	Clarina Equestrian Centre	Clarina	061 353087/ 087 2479965	clarinaequestrian@hotmail.com
	Woodview Riding Centre	Newcastle West	069 61554/ 086 8440536	eugenewoodview7@live.ie



HORSE RIDING, CO. MAYO



RIDING THE SURF IN FANORE, CO. CLARE

## ACTIVITIES



## Family Fun

In the West of Ireland, having fun comes naturally to all, due in part to the plethora of stimulating and educational things to do.

Many of the region's beaches (lakeside and seaside) have EU Blue Flag status ensuring that they are clean and safe - fantastic for swimming, exploring rock pools and all varieties of beach activities. We have masses of water-based activities on offer so whether it's sailing or surfing, the tuition is easily accessible.

If you're intent on keeping your feet dry, we have leisure centres, visitor attractions and outdoor activity hubs that are worth exploring. A full list can be found in the Adventure & Water Sports section as well as the Visitor Attractions list in each County section of this guide.

Children always enjoy a visit to pet farms and we have a number for you to choose from. Well equipped playgrounds are scattered around the region - ideal for burning off some of that excess energy.

Festivals are run throughout most of the year here and while not all cater specifically for children many have aspects that are especially tailored for them. Galway has the annual Baboró Children's Arts Festival while Castlebar has Roola Boola Children's Arts Festival.

It may come as a surprise but the west of Ireland sometimes has inclement weather - the wind has been known to blow and the rain to fall! In spite of this your holiday fun shouldn't come to an end as there's plenty to do indoors too. From indoor sports and play areas, from aquaria and museums, the whole family can be entertained all day, whatever the weather.

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### ACTIVITIES



### FAMILY FUN IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
MAYO	Funster Play Centre	Indoor Play Area	Castlebar	094 90 38939 www.funster.ie
	Mayo Leisure Point	Indoor Activities	Castlebar	094 9025473 www.mayoleisurepoint.ie
	Pikapotlandpaint	Arts and Crafts	Westport Town	098 29509 www.pikapotlandpaint.com
	Tumble Jungle	Indoor Play Area	Ballina	098 76637 www.tumblejungle.ie
	Westport House and Pirate Adventure Centre	Museum and Play Area	Westport Town	098 27766 www.westporthouse.ie
GALWAY	Athenry Heritage Centre	Arts and Heritage Centre	Athenry	091 844661 www.athenryheritagecentre.com
	Atlantaquaria	National Aquarium	Salthill	091 585100 www.nationalaquarium.ie
	Brigt's Garden	Garden Centre Educational Programmes for adults and kids	Oughterard	091550905 www.brigtsgarden.ie
	Baboró Arts Festival	Arts Festival for Children. October 2011	Galway	091 562667 www.baboro.ie
	Beautiful Buds	Garden Centre Summer Workshops	Clarenbridge	091 776492 www.clarenbridgegardencentre.com
	City Limits	Bowling, Indoor Fun Area	Oranmore	091 388100 www.citylimits.ie
	Galway Model Car Club	Model Car Club	Oranmore/Craughwell	087 2628700 www.gmcc.info
	Galway Museum Detective	Museum Activity	Galway City Centre	091 532460 www.galwaycitymuseum.ie
	Hipkidz	Kids Gym/Sports Arena	Galway City East	091 381653 www.hipkidz.ie
	Kardio Kids	Indoor Play Area	Athenry	091 875300 www.kardiokidsathenry.com
	Leisureland	Swimming and Events	Salthill	091 521455 www.leisureland.ie
	Monkey Business	Indoor Soft Play Area	Galway City West	091 580956 www.discoverireland.ie
	Ocean and Country Museum	Sea Life Museum	Letterfrack	095 43473 www.discoverireland.ie
	Perks Funworld	Funfair	Salthill	091 521455 www.perksleisureland.com
	Portumna Castle and Forest Park	Park and Castle	Portumna	090 9741658 www.heritageireland.ie
	Pure Skill	Indoor Sports and Leisure Arena	Galway City East	091 515510 www.pureskill.ie
	The Gaf	Youth Café	Galway City Centre	091 535370 www.thegaf.ie
Turoe Pet Farm	Pet Farm & Indoor Play Area	Loughrea	091 841580 www.turoepetfarm.com	
Loughwell Farm Park	Pet Farm with barrel train for kids and didi cars	Moycullen	091 868631 www.loughwellfarmpark.ie	

## ACTIVITIES





### FAMILY FUN IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
CLARE	Atlantic Airventure	The ultimate thrill for flight enthusiasts	Shannon	061 363687 <a href="http://www.atlanticairventure.com">www.atlanticairventure.com</a>
	Barneys Kidzclub	Fun for kids	Gort Rd Business Park, Ennis	065 6821477
	Bunratty Castle & Folk Park	Step back in time and discover Ireland's fascinating past	Bunratty	061 360788 <a href="http://www.ShannonHeritage.com">www.ShannonHeritage.com</a>
	Clare Leisure World	Fun for everyone, lots of activities	Ennis	065 6866777 <a href="http://www.leisureworld.ie">www.leisureworld.ie</a>
	Craggaunowen - The Living Past	Discover the living past	Quin	061 360788 <a href="http://www.ShannonHeritage.com">www.ShannonHeritage.com</a>
	Dennis's Den	Play, parties, fun and laughter	Quin Rd Business Park, Ennis	065 6829648 <a href="http://www.dennisden.ie">www.dennisden.ie</a>
	Dolphin Discovery	Discover these amazing creatures	Kilrush	065 9051327 <a href="http://www.discoverdolphins.ie">www.discoverdolphins.ie</a>
	Dolphinwatch	Dolphins and nature boat trips	Carrigaholt	065 9058156 <a href="http://www.dolphinwatch.ie">www.dolphinwatch.ie</a>
	Ennis Swimming Pool	Splashing fun for all	Ennis	065 6821604
	Fishing for Kids	Teaching kids through fishing	Ballina/Killaloe	086 7856633 <a href="http://www.fishingforkids.ie">www.fishingforkids.ie</a>
	Imeco Farm	Learn while having fun - eco crafts, courses, farm animals, renewable energy, vintage, wildlife and nature	Clarecastle	087 4000393 <a href="http://www.imecofarm.com">www.imecofarm.com</a>
	Kilkee Waterworld	Guysers and gushers, bubbles and whirls, the thrill of the slide or our lazy river ride	Kilkee	065 9056855 <a href="http://www.kilkeewaterworld.ie">www.kilkeewaterworld.ie</a>
	Lahinch Seaworld	Discover a world of wonder	Lahinch	065 7081900 <a href="http://www.lahinchseaworld.com">www.lahinchseaworld.com</a>
	Lakeside Watersports Centre	Motor boats, Row boats, Kayaks, Swimming, Fishing, table tennis, football and tennis	Mountshannon	061 927225 <a href="http://www.lakesideireland.com">www.lakesideireland.com</a>
LIMERICK	Moher Hill Open Farm	Learn about animals in a fun environment	Liscannor	065 7081071 <a href="http://www.moherfarm.com">www.moherfarm.com</a>
	Shannon Leisure Centre	Splashing fun for all	Shannon	061 361841 <a href="http://www.shannonleisurecentre.ie">www.shannonleisurecentre.ie</a>
	The West Clare Railway and Heritage Centre	Lots of history and lots of fun	Moyasta Junction, Kilrush	065 9051284 <a href="http://www.westclarerailway.ie">www.westclarerailway.ie</a>
	Buttercup Farm	Share the fun of an old style farming tradition	Ballygrennan, Croom	061 397556 <a href="http://www.Buttercupfarm.ie">www.Buttercupfarm.ie</a>
	Curraghchase Forest Park	Discover the great outdoors	Kilcormán	087 9955363 <a href="http://www.coilteoutdoors.ie">www.coilteoutdoors.ie</a>
	Delta Adventure City	Ireland's Biggest & Best Children's Activity Centre	Delta Retail Park	061 423994 <a href="http://www.adventurecity.ie">www.adventurecity.ie</a>
	Fun World	Arcade games, pool, snooker and bowling	Ennis Road	061 325088 <a href="http://www.funworld.ie">www.funworld.ie</a>
	Kilcormán Karting	The ultimate karting experience	Kilcormán	061 393728 <a href="http://www.limerickkarting.com">www.limerickkarting.com</a>
	Limerick Omniplex (Cinema)	Twelve-screen cinema complex	Dooradoyle	061 305305 <a href="http://www.omniplex.ie">www.omniplex.ie</a>
	Red Viking Bus Tour	Guided bus tours of Limerick City and County	Limerick	061 334920 <a href="http://www.redvikingtours.com">www.redvikingtours.com</a>
	Ryans Honey Farm	Discover how honey is made	Pallasgreen	062 57147
	Stonehall Visitor Farm	Experience the enjoyment & fun of a wide variety of animals	Curraghchase, Kilcormán	061 393940 <a href="http://www.stonehallvisitorfarm.com">www.stonehallvisitorfarm.com</a>
	Tons of Fun Childrens Activity Centre	Indoor activity centre for kids	Unit H1 Eastway Business Park, Tipperary Road	061 431141 <a href="http://www.tonsofun.ie">www.tonsofun.ie</a>
	Unigolf	18 Hole Indoor Putting Course	Castletroy	061 633300 <a href="http://www.unigolfclub.com">www.unigolfclub.com</a>

## ACTIVITIES



# Food & Dining

From gourmet dining to great value the West of Ireland has cuisine to suit discerning palates and pockets.

With the Atlantic Ocean washing its picturesque coastline, the West offers incredible seafood from small hostelrys in seaside villages to the larger pubs, restaurants and hotels across the region. This is also the home to some of the best local and Irish fare in Ireland.

## FOOD FESTIVALS

**Féile Bia na Mara** takes place on Achill Island, Co Mayo from the 14th-17th July 2011 with a diverse programme of events and activities over the 3 days. Tel: 098 47353.

**Doonbeg Seafood Festival** takes place from 15th-17th July 2011 in Doonbeg, Co Clare. This two day festival features seafood cooking demonstrations, marine education, music and lots of family fun. Tel: 087 2996184 or visit [www.doonbegseafoodfestival.com](http://www.doonbegseafoodfestival.com)

**Clarenbridge Oyster Festival** (9th-11th September 2011) incorporates a traditional market day, golf outings, art exhibitions, yacht races, fine wine and gourmet evenings. This festival is not one to be missed. Tel: 091 796766 or visit: [www.clarenbridge.com](http://www.clarenbridge.com)

**Galway International Oyster Festival** has been voted one of the 12 greatest shows on earth! A weekend of non-stop entertainment featuring top-class national and international artists, cabaret and dancing from 22nd to 25th September 2011 in Galway City. Tel: 091 587992 or visit: [www.galwayoysterfest.com](http://www.galwayoysterfest.com)

**Leenane Food Festival** takes place on 24th & 25th September 2011 in this picturesque village at the head of Killary Harbour. The aim of the festival is to showcase the local produce which includes mutton, lamb, fish, seaweed, bread, cakes, jams, honey and vegetables. Tel: 095 42017 or visit [www.leenanevillage.com](http://www.leenanevillage.com)

## ACTIVITIES



## FARMERS' MARKETS:

Take time to experience the atmosphere of our farmers' markets. Browse and sample the local and organic produce including farmhouse cheeses, salmon, meats and a wide range of organic fruit and vegetables.

### COUNTY CLARE

**Kilrush Farmers' Market** The Square, Kilrush, Thursdays 9am – 2pm.

**Doolin Saturday Market and Craft Fair** Russell Community Centre, Doolin, Saturday 10am to 4pm (June – August).

**Ennis Farmers' Market** Upper Market St., Ennis, Friday's 8am to 2pm.

**Miltown Malbay Farmers' Market** Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay, Friday's 4.30pm – 7pm (March to December).

**Killaloe Farmers' Market** Killaloe, Sunday's 11am – 3pm.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

### COUNTY GALWAY

**Athenry Farmers' Market** Market Cross, Fridays from 9.30am - 4pm.

**Ballinasloe Farmers' Market** Croffys Centre, Main Street, Fridays from 9am – 3pm.

**Claregalway Farmers' Market** takes place between the arches and Spar shop on Saturdays from 10am - 2pm.

**Clarenbridge Farmers' Market** Chois Chlair Shopping Centre, takes place on the last Sunday of every month from 12 noon to 6pm at the Garden Centre.

**Clifden Market**, Market Street, Fridays from 10am – 5pm.

**Dunmore Market**, Village Centre Fridays 10am – 4pm.

**Glenamaddy Market**, Tuesdays, 10am – 4pm.

**Galway City Market** can be found every Saturday (and Bank Holiday) from 8.30am – 5pm and Sunday from 2pm to 6pm located in the City Centre by St. Nicholas Church (just off shop street).

**Galway City Christmas Market** runs at St. Nicholas Church 9am – 5pm from the 14th to 24th of December.

**Gort Famers' Market**, Town Centre, on Fridays 10am – 4pm.

**Headford Farmers' Market** (the Square) on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month from 10am – 2pm

**Kinvara Farmers' Market** in Johnstons' Yard on Fridays, 10am – 2pm.

**Loughrea Farmers' Market**, Barrack St., on Thursday, 10am – 2pm.

**Mountbellew Farmers' Market**, The Square, on Wednesdays, 11am – 5pm.

**Moycullen Farmers' Market** (Opposite The Forge Bar), Fridays 1pm – 6pm.

**Oranmore Farmers' Market** (behind Church) takes place on Thursdays, 1pm – 6pm.

**Oughterard Village Market**, Keoghs Yard, every Tuesday 10am – 6pm.

**Portumna Farmers' Market** (Town Hall) takes place on Fridays from 8.30am – 12.30pm.

**Roundstone Country Market**, Sundays 11am – 4pm. (weekly during summer; bi-monthly during winter)

**Tuam Farmers' Market** (Market Cross) 100% organic farmers market takes place on Thursdays, 9am – 4pm.

## ACTIVITIES



## COUNTY LIMERICK

**Limerick Milk Market** Cornmarket Row, Limerick City, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays.

**Artisans Craft Fair** Cornmarket Row, Limerick City, Last Thursday of every month from April.

## COUNTY MAYO

**Ballina Farmers' Market**, Market Square, on Saturdays from 9am – 3pm.

**Castlebar Farmers' Market** Market Square, on Fridays from 9am – 6pm.

**Charlestown Farmers' Market** Murphy's Londis Car Park Market on Thursdays, from 9am – 2pm.

**Claremorris Farmers' Market** Town Hall every Friday from 10am – 1pm.

**Foxford Farmers' Market** (Woolen Mills) takes place every Saturday from 10am – 2pm.

**Killala Farmers' Market** takes place in the Pastoral Centre beside the Catholic Church on Sundays from 10.30am – 1.30pm.

**Kiltimagh Farmers' Market**, in the Market Square every Friday from 9am – 3pm.

**Louisburgh Farmers' Market** takes place every Friday from 9am – 4pm.

**Westport Country Market** in James Street car park takes place every Thursday from 8.30am to 1pm.

**Westport Farmers' Market** on the Mall takes place from March to December, on Saturdays from 9am – 5pm.

**Balla Craft & Food Market** takes place in the Art & Soul Studio (above The Credit Union) on Sundays from 11.30am – 3.30pm.

## COOKERY SCHOOLS:

## COUNTY CLARE

**Berry Lodge Cookery School**, Miltown Malbay.  
Charming Victorian family home offering superb accommodation, excellent food and cookery tuition.  
Tel: 065 7077022, Web: [www.berrylodge.com](http://www.berrylodge.com)

**Bunratty Cookery School**, Deerpark, Bunratty.  
Offering a wide variety of courses designed to cater for all levels.  
Tel: 061 713500, Web: [www.bunrattycookeryschool.ie](http://www.bunrattycookeryschool.ie)

**Inchiquin House Cookery School**, Corofin.  
Combining the love of home cooking and living country life all in a period Georgian home.  
Tel: 085 211 8835, Web: [www.inchiquinhouse.com](http://www.inchiquinhouse.com)

## COUNTY MAYO

**Lisloughrey Lodge Cookery School**, The Quay, Cong.  
Participants at cookery courses at Lisloughrey Lodge will learn the secrets of producing fine food using only the best of quality Irish ingredients.  
Tel: 094 9545 400, Web: [www.lisloughrey.ie](http://www.lisloughrey.ie)

**Pontoon Bridge Hotel Cookery School**, Pontoon.  
Two day cookery course, on how to become a skilled, creative and organised master of your own kitchen.  
Tel: 094 9256120, Web: [www.pontoonbridge.com](http://www.pontoonbridge.com)

**Marjorie's Cookery School & Guest Accommodation**, Quay Road, Ballina.  
Come along to a lesson and learn how to cook a variety of foods, meet new friends, have fun and best of all, together taste all the tasty dishes you've prepared. Tel: 096 22609, Web: [www.marjorieskitchen.net](http://www.marjorieskitchen.net)

## ACTIVITIES





KYLEMORE ABBEY & GARDENS, CO. GALWAY

# Gardens

The gardens of the West of Ireland are well-known for their beauty, variety and uniqueness. Rain, soft sunshine and the warmth of the Gulf Stream combine to make ideal conditions for the creation of magnificent and magical gardens.

The general landscape varies greatly throughout the region, from the stone walled farmlands to rolling hills and fresh waters of Lough Corrib and the River Shannon, to the wild mountains and valleys. Within this landscape lie garden treasures that have been laid out by a variety of local people.

The coastal location means that plants are adapted to a moist maritime climate, but the Gulf Stream ensures that the region does not suffer from the extremes of temperature experienced by many other countries on the same latitude. This proximity to the Atlantic can also cause problems as salt and storm can be a challenge to every plant and tree. The soil is acidic and shallow in many places and much needed nutrients must then be added to make it fertile. This is a challenging environment for gardeners, but they ensure that the flora and fauna follow the weather patterns of the West. Hydrangeas, rhododendrons and heather are common features in gardens here as are azaleas and camellias - and even the odd palm tree!

The gardens here range in size and style, from formal to wild. Many feature exotic plants which were imported at the turn of the 20th Century and others have concentrated on the discovery and preservation of gardens which are over 300 years old. Each garden has its own story which we hope you will explore and enjoy.

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## ACTIVITIES





BRIGIT'S GARDEN, ROSCAHILL, CO. GALWAY



WOODVILLE WALLED GARDEN, KILCHREEST, CO. GALWAY

### GARDENS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Address	Telephone	Web Site
MAYO	Achill Secret Garden	Atlantic drive, Achill island	098 47353/ 098 45103	<a href="http://www.achillsecretgarden.com">www.achillsecretgarden.com</a>
	Enniscoe House & Gardens	Castlehill, Ballina	096 31809	<a href="http://www.enniscoe.com">www.enniscoe.com</a>
	National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, Turlough Park House & Gardens	Castlebar	094 9031755	<a href="http://www.museum.ie">www.museum.ie</a>
	Westport House & Gardens	Westport	098 27766	<a href="http://www.westporthouse.ie">www.westporthouse.ie</a>
GALWAY	Ballynahinch Castle Hotel	Ballinafad Connemara	095 31006	<a href="http://www.ballynahinch-castle.com">www.ballynahinch-castle.com</a>
	Brigit's Garden	Roscahill	091 550905	<a href="http://www.brigitsgarden.ie">www.brigitsgarden.ie</a>
	Cashel House Hotel	Cashel	095 31001	<a href="http://www.cashel-house-hotel.com">www.cashel-house-hotel.com</a>
	Coole Park	Gort	091 631804	<a href="http://www.coolepark.ie">www.coolepark.ie</a>
	Kylemore Abbey & Gardens	Connemara	095 41146	<a href="http://www.kylemoreabbey.com">www.kylemoreabbey.com</a>
	Portumna Castle	Portumna	090 9741658	<a href="http://www.heritageireland.ie">www.heritageireland.ie</a>
	Renvyle House	Renvyle, Connemara	095 43511	<a href="http://www.renvyle.com">www.renvyle.com</a>
	Rosleague Manor	Letterfrack, Connemara	095 41101	<a href="http://www.rosleague.com">www.rosleague.com</a>
	Ross Castle	Roscahill near Oughterard	091 550183	<a href="http://www.rosscastle.com">www.rosscastle.com</a>
	Woodville House Walled Garden	Kilchreest	091 840986	<a href="http://www.woodvillegarden.com">www.woodvillegarden.com</a>
	Zetland Country House Hotel	Cashel, Connemara	095 31111	<a href="http://www.zetland.com">www.zetland.com</a>
CLARE	Ballyvoe Garden	Doolin	087 9147725	<a href="http://www.doolingarden.com">www.doolingarden.com</a>
	Bunratty Castle Gardens	Bunratty	061 360788	<a href="http://www.shannonheritage.com">www.shannonheritage.com</a>
	Caher Bridge Garden	Fanore	086 080274	
	Irish Seed Savers Association	Scariff	061 921866	<a href="http://www.irishseedsavers.ie">www.irishseedsavers.ie</a>
	Knappogue Castle Gardens	Quin	061 360788	<a href="http://www.shannonheritage.com">www.shannonheritage.com</a>
	Lough Derg Garden Trail	Lough Derg	067 33464	<a href="http://www.loughderggardens.com">www.loughderggardens.com</a>
	Vandeleur Walled Gardens	Kilrush	065 9051760	<a href="http://www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie">www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie</a>
	LIMERICK	Ballynacourty Gardens	Askeaton	061 396409
Boyce Gardens		Foynes	069 65302	<a href="http://www.boycesgardens.com">www.boycesgardens.com</a>
Glin Castle Gardens		Glin	068 34173	<a href="http://www.glincastle.com">www.glincastle.com</a>
Islanmore Stud and Gardens		Croom	061 397825	
Knockpatrick Gardens		Foynes	069 65256	<a href="http://www.knockpatrickgardens.com">www.knockpatrickgardens.com</a>
Limerick Garden Trail		Co Limerick	069 65302	<a href="http://www.limerickgardentrail.com">www.limerickgardentrail.com</a>
Moanwing Garden		Rathkeale	069 64056	
Terra Nova Gardens	Killmallock	063 90744	<a href="http://www.terranoaplants.com">www.terranoaplants.com</a>	

## ACTIVITIES





CONNEMARA CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF LINKS, CO. GALWAY

# Golf

**Golf is often a way of life here in the West of Ireland. A diverse range of links and parkland courses reflect all the great traditions of the game.**

There are more than 40 courses to choose from in the West of Ireland, each one offering a unique experience, Adare, Doonbeg, Carne, Connemara, Lahinch and Westport stand high on the list of Ireland's championship courses. While the 9 hole courses of Ballyhaunis, Connemara Isles and Spanish Point are hidden gems.

The temperate climate here means that golfers can enjoy their sport almost all year round. The main season runs from April to October, but the exhilaration of winter golf is a special experience. But that's not all. You will discover that there is an engaging quirkiness about the way the game is played here. Golfers will be eager to engage you in their sense of the game. They will offer advice about their respective courses and will proffer guidance on the various other quality golf courses that the visitor can play and experience in the West of Ireland.

Go with it, relax and enjoy – in the West of Ireland, golf is both exciting and different and, in a word... SUPERB!

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## ACTIVITIES



BALLINROBE GOLF CLUB, CO. MAYO



### GOLF IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Holes	Location	Telephone	Web Site
MAYO	Achill Golf Club	9	Keel, Achill Island	098 43456	www.achillgolfclub.com
	Ashford Castle Golf Club	9	Cong	094 9546003	www.ashford.ie/golf
	Balla Golf Club	18	Balla	094 9365470	www.ballagolf.com
	Ballina Golf Club	18	Mossgrove, Ballina	096 21050	www.ballina-golf.com
	Ballinrobe Golf Club	18	Cloonacastle, Ballinrobe	094 9541118	www.lakedistrict.ie
	Ballyhaunis Golf Club	9	Coolnaha	094 9630014	www.ballyhaunisgolfclub.com
	Carne Golf Links	18	Belmullet	097 82292	www.carnegolfinks.com
	Castlebar Golf Club	18	Hawthorn Avenue, Rocklands	094 9021649	www.castlebar.ie/clubs/golf-club
	Claremorris Golf Club	18	Castlemacgarrett	094 9371527	www.claremorrisgolfclub.com
	Clew Bay Golf Club	9	Kilmeena, Westport	098 41730	www.clewbaygolf.com
GALWAY	Mulranny Golf Club	9	Mulranny	098 36262	
	Swinford Golf Club	9	Brabazon Park, Swinford	094 9251378	www.swinfordgolf.com
	Westport Golf Club	18	Carrowholly	098 28262	www.golfwestport.com
	Athenry Golf Club	18	Palmerstown, Oranmore	091 794466	www.athenrygolfclub.net
	Ballinasloe Golf Club	18	Rossgloss, Ballinasloe	090 9642126	www.ballinasloegolfclub.ie
	Bearna Golf Club	18	Carboley, Bearna	091 592677	www.bearnagolfclub.com
	Connemara Championship Golf Links	27	Ballyconneely, Clifden	095 23502	www.connemaragolfinks.com
	Cregmore Park Golf Club	18	Cregmore	091 799799	www.cregmorepark.com
	Curra West	18	Kylebridge, Loughrea	090 9745121	www.currawest.com
	Galway Golf Club	18	Blackrock, Salthill	091 522033	www.galwaygolf.com
	Glenlo Abbey Golf Club	9	Bushypark, Galway City	091 526666	www.glenlo.com
	Gort Golf Club	18	Castlequarter, Gort	091 632244	www.gortgolf.com
	Connemara Isles	9	Annaghavane Island, Lettermore	091 572498	www.connemaraaislesgolfclub.com
	Dunmore Demesne Golf Course	9	Dunmore	093 38709	www.ddgc.ie
	Loughrea Golf Club	18	Graigue, Loughrea	091 841049	www.loughreagolfclub.com
	Mountbellew Golf Club	18	Shankhill, Mountbellew	090 9679259	www.mountbellewgolfclub.com
	Oldthort Golf Course	9	Tynagh Rd, Portumna	090 9741123	www.oldthortgolfandaccommodation.com
	Oughterard Golf Club	18	Oughterard	091 552131	www.oughterardgolf.com
	Portumna Golf Club	18	Woodford Road, Portumna	090 9741059	www.portumnagolfclub.ie
	Tuam Golf Club	18	Barnacurragh, Tuam	093 28993	www.tuamgolfclub.com

## ACTIVITIES



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

### GOLF IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

Name	Holes	Location	Telephone	Web Site
<b>CLARE</b>				
Doonbeg Golf Club	18	Doonbeg Golf Club	065 9055602	<a href="http://www.doonbeggolfclub.com">www.doonbeggolfclub.com</a>
Dromoland Castle Golf Course	18	Newmarket-on-Fergus	061 368444	<a href="http://www.dromoland.ie/golf">www.dromoland.ie/golf</a>
East Clare Golf Club	18	Bodyke	061 921322	<a href="http://www.eastclare.com">www.eastclare.com</a>
Ennis Golf Club	18	Drumbiggle	065 6824074	<a href="http://www.ennisgolfclub.com">www.ennisgolfclub.com</a>
Kilkee Golf Club	18	Kilkee	065 9056048	<a href="http://www.kilkeegolfclub.ie">www.kilkeegolfclub.ie</a>
Kilrush Golf Club	18	Kilrush	065 9051138	<a href="http://www.kilrushgolfclub.com">www.kilrushgolfclub.com</a>
Lahinch Golf Club Castle Course	18	Lahinch	065 7081003	<a href="http://www.lahinchgolf.com">www.lahinchgolf.com</a>
Lahinch Golf Club Old Course	18	Lahinch	065 7081003	<a href="http://www.lahinchgolf.com">www.lahinchgolf.com</a>
Shannon Golf Club	18	Shannon	061 471849	<a href="http://www.shannongolfclub.ie">www.shannongolfclub.ie</a>
Spanish Point Golf Club	9	Spanish Point, Milltown Malbay	065 7084198	<a href="http://www.spanishpointgolf.com">www.spanishpointgolf.com</a>
Woodstock Hotel Golf Course	18	Shanaway Road, Ennis	065 6899800	<a href="http://www.woodstockgolfclub.com">www.woodstockgolfclub.com</a>
<b>LIMERICK</b>				
Abbeyfeale Golf Club	9	Abbeyfeale	068 32033	<a href="http://www.abbeyfealegolfclub.com">www.abbeyfealegolfclub.com</a>
Adare Golf Club	18	Adare	061 396204	<a href="http://www.adaremanorgolfclub.com">www.adaremanorgolfclub.com</a>
Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort	18	Adare Manor, Adare	061 605274	<a href="http://www.adaremanor.com">www.adaremanor.com</a>
Castletroy Golf Club	18	Castletroy	061 335753	<a href="http://www.castletroygolfclub.ie">www.castletroygolfclub.ie</a>
Limerick Golf Club	18	Ballyclough	061 415146	<a href="http://www.limerickgc.com">www.limerickgc.com</a>
Newcastle West Golf Club	18	Newcastle West	069 76500	<a href="http://www.newcastlewestgolfclub.com">www.newcastlewestgolfclub.com</a>
Rathbane Golf Club	18	Rathbane	061 313655	<a href="http://www.rathbanegolfclub.com">www.rathbanegolfclub.com</a>

## ACTIVITIES





DÚN AONGHASA, INIS MÓR, ARAN ISLANDS



# Islands of the West of Ireland

Looking out over the Atlantic Ocean, tasting the salt on your lips and feeling the sea breeze on your face, nothing invigorates like a visit to the islands off the West coast of Ireland. These islands embody the soul of Ireland and this is predominately where the Irish language and culture is still vibrant.

Wild and beautiful the islands have captured the imagination for thousands of years and provided stimulus for artists and writers such as J.M. Synge, Paul Henry, Heinrich Boll and Graham Greene. The perception that the islands were remote has changed dramatically in recent years and now almost all are easily accessible by boat, plane or by road as in the case of Achill Island.

Be sure to plan carefully for your visit to the islands - some are very busy in high season (especially July & August) and very few have ATM banking facilities.

We ask that you please leave the islands as you find them. Respect the environment and dispose of litter in bins or take it away with you. Take care; a visit to the islands is a unique experience but always be aware that these landscapes are exposed to the elements, island terrain is mainly rugged and the Atlantic Ocean can sometimes be wild and unpredictable.

## ACTIVITIES

## COUNTY GALWAY

### Oileáin Arainn (Aran Islands)

The three Aran Islands Inis Mór (Inishmore), Inis Meáin (Inishmaan) and Inis Óirr (Inisheer) are situated in a north westerly, south easterly direction at the mouth of Galway Bay. These islands are famous for their geological formation, historical monuments and cultural heritage. Irish is the first language of the islanders and is still spoken in everyday life. The islands are rich with flora and fauna and have wonderful clean beaches.

#### Getting there by Air:

Aer Arann Islands, Aerfort Chonamara, Caisleán, Indreabhán,  
Co. na Gaillimhe.  
Tel: 091 593034  
[www.aerarannislands.ie](http://www.aerarannislands.ie).

#### Getting there by Sea:

Sailing from Rossaveal, Co. Galway:

##### Islands Ferries Teo

Tel: 091 568903.  
[www.aranislandferries.com](http://www.aranislandferries.com)

Ferries also sail from Doolin, Co. Clare:

##### Aran Doolin Ferries

Tel: 065 7074455  
[www.doolinferries.com](http://www.doolinferries.com)

##### Doolin Ferries Ltd.

Tel: 065 7075555  
[www.obrienline.com](http://www.obrienline.com).

##### Doolin2Aran Ferries

Tel: 065 7075949 or 087 2453239.  
[www.doolin2aranferries.com](http://www.doolin2aranferries.com).

#### For further information contact:

Aran Tourist Office, Kilronan, Inis Mór, Aran Islands, Co Galway.  
Tel: 099 61263 or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/islands](http://www.discoverireland.ie/islands)

### Inis Mór

Inis Mór is the biggest of the Aran Islands and one of Ireland's most popular tourist destinations.

"Next parish Boston" one can truthfully say when gazing down on the sparkling clear Atlantic Ocean from the UNESCO Heritage Site Dún Aonghasa cliff face. Also scattered throughout the island are the remnants of 12th century high crosses and churches.

Here you can still see the Aran Jumper being knitted and experience other local crafts such as basket weaving.

The island is not all about history, it is quite common to stumble across a traditional music or dance session which have been known to continue into the early hours. While Kilmurvey is the island's Blue Flag Beach, there are many others to choose from where you can relax, stroll, swim, dive or surf.

**Festivals include:** St. John's Eve Bonfire; 23rd June.

Patrún Inis Mór; 24th – 26th June.

Halloween Night Masquerade; 31st October.

### Inis Meáin

Meaning 'middle island', is the least visited of the three Aran Islands and allows the visitor to immerse themselves in Irish culture and traditions. The unique and traditional Inisméain Knitwear is produced here and exported to the fashion capitals of the world.

Inisméain too has many sites of historical interest, e.g. Church of the King's Seven Sons, a number of holy wells and the prehistoric stone fort of Dún Chonchúir which is very well preserved and from its high point you can enjoy breathtaking panoramic views.

While spending time here the famous writer, John Millington Synge got inspiration for his plays. Synge's Cottage is now a museum and is open during the tourist season.

**Festivals include:** Galway Bay Hooker & Currach Regatta; 18th June 2011.



INIS ÓIRR, ARAN ISLANDS

## ACTIVITIES

## Inis Óirr

You may not know it but you're probably already familiar with Inis Óirr! The opening credits of the Father Ted television series feature one of the island's shipwrecks – the cargo vessel 'Plassy'.

Inis Óirr, meaning "south island", is the smallest of the three islands and is a tranquil place, perfect for quiet contemplation and relaxed walks. The island is small enough to see entirely on foot.

Ancient monuments worth a visit include the ruins of Teampall Chaomhain (St Kevin's Church), O'Brien's Castle - a 15th Century tower house which stands within a stone fort, St. Gobnait's Church and the Holy Well of St. Enda. At Áras Éanna Arts Centre, you can attend workshops, see exhibitions and learn about the island's traditional culture.

As you'd expect there are superb beaches ideal for swimming or surfing, walking routes and magnificent views across to the mainland and Connemara.

**Festivals include:** Inis Óirr Currach Races; 13th & 14th August 2011.

## Inishbofin Island

Is located off the west coast of Connemara and is renowned for its impromptu music sessions featuring wonderful local and visiting musicians. Visitors here are captivated by the island's allure and magnificent scenery. Inishbofin is an ecologist's joy with its array of flora and fauna and boasts excellent loop walks, two Green Coast beaches and crystal clear waters ideal for scuba diving enthusiasts. The island's stunning natural harbour makes it an ideal sailing base.

**Festivals include:** Environmental Summer School; July 2011.

**Getting there:** Ferries operate all year round from Cleggan, Connemara, Co. Galway.

Inishbofin Island Discovery: Tel: 095 45819 or 095 45894.

[www.inishbofinislanddiscovery.com](http://www.inishbofinislanddiscovery.com)

**For further information contact:** Discover Ireland Centre, Áras Fáilte, Forster Street, Galway. Tel: 091 537700 or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/islands](http://www.discoverireland.ie/islands)



RUINS OF ST. COLMAN'S CHURCH, INISHBOFIN ISLAND

## COUNTY MAYO

### Achill Island

Is Ireland's largest offshore island and one of the few to be accessible by road. Take the **N59** from Westport to Mulranny and then the **R319** to Achill. The views on the journey to and from the island are breathtaking. The island boasts of spectacular sea cliffs, awesome scenery, stunning drives, walks and cycle routes and beautiful beaches (many of them Blue Flag Beaches) catering for all types of angling and water sports.

Achill Island has the reputation of being an artist's retreat and has festivals and events to suit all. Sporting events and activities include half marathons, surfing, swimming, walking, cycling, scuba diving, climbing, angling and equestrian activities to mention but a few.

#### For further information contact:

Westport Tourist Office, James Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Tel: 098 25711 or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/islands](http://www.discoverireland.ie/islands)

### Clare Island

Guards the entrance to Clew Bay and in former times was the home of the pirate queen Grace O'Malley (Granuaile). Now the people drawn to its shores are mainly anglers, scuba divers, naturalists, those in search of a quiet retreat and walkers. The island has a network of looped walks... climb to the peak of Knockmore, where you'll be enthralled by the panoramic views of Clew Bay and its islands, seabirds, the Blue Flag Harbour Beach and Croagh Patrick on the mainland.

**Festivals include:** Singles Weekends, Bard Summer School and the Clare Island Regatta.

**Getting there:** Daily Sailings from Roonagh Pier, near Louisburg, Co. Mayo.

Clare Island Ferry: Tel: 098 23737 or 086 8515003.

[www.clareislandferry.com](http://www.clareislandferry.com)

O'Malley Ferry Services: Tel: 098 25045 or 086 8870814.

[www.omalleyferries.com](http://www.omalleyferries.com)

#### For further information contact:

Westport Tourist Office, James Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Tel: 098 25711 or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/islands](http://www.discoverireland.ie/islands)

## ACTIVITIES



### Inis Bigil (Inishbiggle)

Located between the Mayo mainland and Achill Island and accessible across the Bullmouth Channel, one of the strongest currents in Europe.

Inis Bigil is a unique island which to this day has a traditional community where small farming and fishing are time-worn traditions. It has stunning panoramic views of west Mayo and is still totally unspoilt. Life here is lived at a different pace and the tranquil atmosphere, old world customs and glorious scenery are beloved of walkers. For day trippers this is an idyllic location for walking and exploration.

**Festivals include:** Inis Bigil Festival - August.

**Getting there:** Sailing from Doran's Point, Ballycroy.

Leneghan Ferries Tel: 098 45513.

**For further information contact:**

Westport Tourist Office, James Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Tel:098 25711 or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/islands](http://www.discoverireland.ie/islands)

### Inishturk Island

(Island of the Wild Boar) is a scenic little island off the west coast between Inishbofin and Clare Island. If you are looking to get away from the stresses and strains of modern life just hop on the short boat journey from Roonagh Pier to Inishturk, as you step off the ferry you'll immediately notice the difference. The island has an array of archaeological sites and is an environmentalist's paradise with wonderful bird life and unique flora.

**Festivals include:** Traditional Music Weekend - June,  
Inishturk Regatta - August.

**Getting there:** Daily Sailings from Roonagh Pier, near Louisburg, Co. Mayo.

Clare Island Ferry: Tel: 098 23737 or 086 8515003.

[www.clareislandferry.com](http://www.clareislandferry.com)

Inishturk Ferries: 098 45541 or 086 2029670.

[www.inishturkisland.com](http://www.inishturkisland.com)

**For further information contact:**

Westport Tourist Office, James Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Tel:098 25711 or visit [www.discoverireland.ie/islands](http://www.discoverireland.ie/islands)



ACHILL ISLAND, CO. MAYO

### ACTIVITIES

**COUNTY CLARE****Scattery Island**

Scattery Island is a small uninhabited island at the mouth of the River Shannon near Kilrush, in south west Clare.

The island has a rich and unusual history associated with it, most of which centres around the life of St. Senan, the founder of the monastery on the island, in the sixth century. Scattery Island was an ecclesiastical centre in early times.

St. Senan's monastery suffered severely as a consequence of the Viking raids of the ninth and tenth centuries, an attack from Brian Boru and later it was almost demolished in Tudor times during the reign of Queen Elizabeth when she suppressed all monasteries in Ireland. Scattery has also served as a place of safe harbour for the Spanish Armada and as a defence outpost for the English government, from which time the 18th century battery built to defend against a French invasion dates.

Today the island contains the ruins of the old monastic site featuring a round tower damaged by lightning, a primitive stone cathedral, an oratory, Teampall Senain and St Senan's Bed, and the church of Ard na nAingeal, where the Archangel Michael is said to have appeared to St. Senan. Along with these monastic ruins, the island is adorned with beautiful semi-natural grassland which is of great interest to ecologists who visit here.

**Access – Explore Scattery Island**

Sailings (April to end of October) from Kilrush Creek Marina, Co. Clare.

Contact: Scattery Island Ferries T: 065 9051327.

Tours subject to demand and tides.



SCATTERY ISLAND, CO. CLARE

**Holy Island**

Holy Island on Lough Derg and the river Shannon is one of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland. Its many attractions include a well-preserved Round Tower, the ruins of six churches, a Holy Well, a unique graveyard with slabs dating from the eight century, Bullaun Stones, a cell like structure, which is one of the most extraordinary buildings in Ireland and a 'bargaining' stone where many a marriage was brokered. Their secluded position has enabled them to survive in a wonderful state of preservation.

The Island is chiefly associated with St. Caiman who died in 653 AD. In his time it was a great center of learning.

Like all monasteries it suffered badly from Viking attacks, the first recorded being in 836 AD. Brian Boru rebuilt the monastery and his brother Marcan was abbot there.

**Access – Explore Holy Island**

A boat trip from the picturesque pier at Mountshannon and a guided tour of the Island is part of the service East Clare Heritage provides.

T: 061 921615. Adults €9. Children €5.



HOLY ISLAND, CO. CLARE

**The West Counties  
Pocket Guide****ACTIVITIES**



IRONMAN 70.3 SERIES (4th SEPTEMBER, GALWAY)



THOMOND PARK, LIMERICK CITY



GALWAY RACES, GALWAY CITY

## Sporting Events

For some, sport is the lifeblood of the region, with a multitude of sporting activities played in every parish, village, town and city in the West.

> **Ironman 70.3 Series** The first Ironman event in Ireland will take place on the 4th September in Galway. Athletes undertake a 1.9km swim in Galway Bay, followed by a 90km cycle and finally a spectator-friendly run course through the Salthill area of Galway. See [www.ironmanireland.com](http://www.ironmanireland.com)

> **Gaelic Games** are premier among sporting activities here. Gaelic football, camogie and hurling are played in every town for at least nine months a year. The game of hurling played with speed and skill is a joy to behold. Feel the thrill and the excitement of inter club or county rivalry by attending one of the local Gaelic fixtures. Visitors are always welcome – it's a unique encounter you will not forget! See [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie) for more information.

> **Horse Racing** Race Meetings take place throughout the year at three racecourses in Galway, Ballinrobe (Mayo) and Limerick. The main race meeting in the West, and perhaps in Ireland, takes place each year in Galway beginning in the last week in July. This is much more than a race meeting – this is an event that attracts not just the racing fraternity, but visitors from all over the world to come and experience one of the country's truly great sporting carnivals. See [www.hri.ie](http://www.hri.ie) for more information.

> **Soccer** is played across the region all year round and all major towns and cities have their own clubs. See [www.fai.ie](http://www.fai.ie) for more information.

> **Greyhound Racing** There are two Greyhound Tracks in the West one in Galway City and the second in Limerick City. See [www.igb.ie](http://www.igb.ie) for more information.

> **Rugby Union** is very popular here with flourishing clubs in the major towns and cities. See [www.irfu.ie](http://www.irfu.ie) for more information.

For local fixtures and information visit or telephone your nearest Discover Ireland Centre or Tourist Office - see the inside front cover for contact details - or visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

### ACTIVITIES





NEAR LEENANE, CO. GALWAY

# Walking & Cycling

It's easy to see why walking and cycling are such popular pursuits for visitors to the West of Ireland. The options are so diverse. Get off the beaten path and enjoy the scenery, the tranquillity and the solitude.

You'll find signposted walks in and around most of the larger towns and cities. Enquire at your nearest Tourist Offices for more details.

Outside of the towns there are longer waymarked trails which typically include a combination of on and off road walking. Hill walkers will find their Mecca in Connemara, on the cliffs of Clare or on the mountains of Mayo and on Achill Island where the choice of challenging peaks is exceptional and the vista unsurpassed. Shorter looped walks are always coming on stream – visit your nearest Tourist Office for more information.

The Burren National Park in Co. Clare or the Connemara National Park located near Letterfrack in Co. Galway and Ballycroy National Park in Co. Mayo offer walks and trails suitable for all levels of fitness and interests.

Ireland has a great network of rural roads and we are adamant that the most picturesque are here in the West! Most of the roads are minor routes where traffic is often likely to consist of sheep and tractors.

Guided cycling tours and bicycle hire are readily available.

The World Class Great Western Greenway between Newport and Mulranny (Co Mayo) is an 18km traffic free cycling and walking facility following the route of the famous Newport/Mulranny Railway. This is the longest off road cycling facility in Ireland and forms part of the National Cycle Network.

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## ACTIVITIES



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

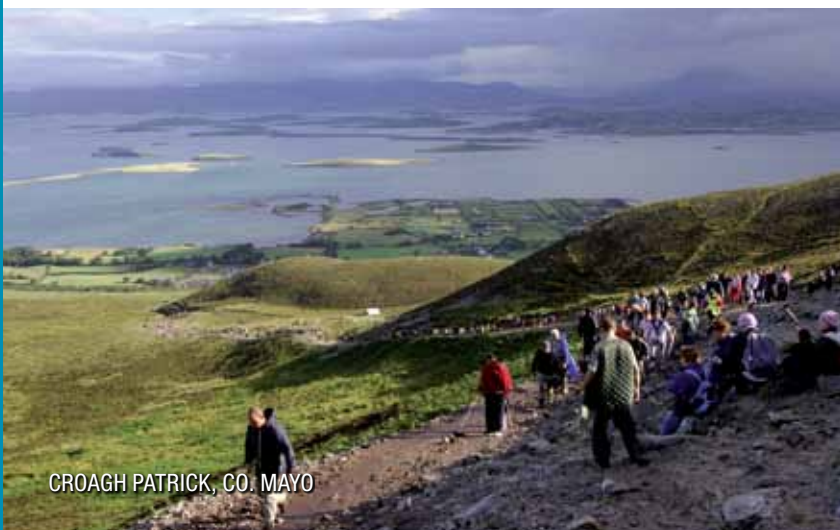
### WALKING OPERATORS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Telephone & Web
MAYO	Croagh Patrick Walking Holidays	Guided Walking tours of Connemara	Belclare View, Belclare, Westport	098 26090 www.walkingguideireland.com
	Tourism Pure Walking Holidays	Small Group Walking in Co. Mayo	Breaffy Road, Castlebar	094 9027797 www.tourismpure.com
GALWAY	Connemara Safari Guided Walking Tours	Guided Walking Tours of The Islands and Connemara	Skye Road, Clifden	095 21071 www.walkingconnemara.com
	Killary Tours	Guided and Self led Bicycle and Walking Tours	Leenane	095 42276 www.killaryadventure.com
CLARE	Burren Wild Guided Walking Tours	Walking tours suitable for everyone	The Burren	087 877 9565 www.burrenwalks.com
	Burren Hill Walks	Explore the fascinating Burren Region	Corkscrew Hill, Ballyvaughan	065 7077168 homepage.eircom.net/~burrenhillwalks/
	Burren Guided Walks and Hikes	Offering short rambles, half and full day guided walks and hikes	Fanore, Ballyvaughan	065 7076100 www.burrenguidedwalks.com
	Clare Walking Tours	Walking tours, holidays and short breaks in East Clare	Tuamgraney	061 922925 www.clarewalkingtours.ie
	Centre for Environmental Living and Training	Walking routes available	Scariff	061 640765 www.cetnet.org
	Ennis Walking Tours	Experience a journey through medieval Ennis	Tourist Office, Arthur's Row, Ennis	087 6483714 www.enniswalkingtours.com
	Farm Heritage Tours	Learn how nature, culture and farming have shaped the Burren as you see it today	Burren	065 7089944 www.farmheritagetours.com
	Go Ireland Walking Holidays	Guided walks in the Burren and Aran Islands	Burren	066 9762094 www.govisitireland.com
	Heart of Burren Walks	Guided walks of the Burren area	Kilnaboy	065 682 77 07 www.heartofburrenwalks.com
	Irish Activity Holidays	Packages available for individuals and groups	Newmarket-on-Fergus	061 366999 www.irishactivityholidays.com
	Mullaghmore Experience Walks	Guided walks of Mullaghmore Mountains	Burren	086 8219441
	West Clare Walking Tours	Packages tailored to suit needs and requirements	Kilrush	065 9052620 www.estuarywalkingtours.com
	Croagh Patrick Walking Holidays	Guided walking tours of the Burren	Burren	098 26090 www.walkingguideireland.com
	LIMERICK	Ballyhoura Fáilte Ltd	Guided walks of the Ballyhoura region	Kilfinane
Ballyhoura Country Holidays		Specialised local knowledge, tailored to individual requirements	Ballyhoura	061 399132 www.ballyhouracountry.com
Ballyhoura Bears Walking Club		Organised walks each Sunday, visitors welcome	Ballyhoura	www.ballyhourabears.com
Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre		Introductory Walks on Waymarked Trails	Kilfinane	063 91161 www.kilfinaneoeec.com
Angela's Ashes Walking Tour		Based on the book by Frank McCourt	Limerick Tourist Office	061 317522 www.shannonregiontrails.ie
Historical Limerick Walking Tour		A colourful and fascinating history is evident everywhere	Limerick Tourist Office	061 317522 www.shannonregiontrails.ie
Shannonside Walking Tours		Walking tours of Limerick City and The Burren Area	Limerick City	087 2351339
Limerick Civic Trust Walking Tours		Choose from a range of great walking tours	Bishops Palace, Limerick City	061 313399 www.limerickcivictrust.ie

## ACTIVITIES

## LOOPED WALKS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Location	Category	Times (Hrs)	Difficulty
MAYO	Clogher Bog Loop	Clogher	Nature	2	Easy
	Lettermaghera Loop	Derrada	Nature	2	Easy
	Black Ditch	Carraweigue	Coastal	2	Moderate
	Children of Lir Loop		Coastal	3	Moderate
	Keenagh Loop	Keenagh	Mountain	3	Moderate
	Erris Head Loop	Erris Head	Coastal	2	Moderate
	Enniscoe Loop	Enniscoe House	Nature	1	Easy
	Bothy Loop	Islandeady	Nature	1 - 1.5	Easy
	Lough Aroher Loop		Nature	2.5 - 3	Moderate
	Letterkeen Loop		Mountain	3 - 3.5	Hard
	Brackloon Woods Loop	Westport	Nature	1	Easy
	Tourmakeady Loop	Tourmakeady	Nature	1.5 - 2	Easy
	Lookout Hill Loop	Mulranny	Nature	1.5 - 2	Easy
	Bunnahowna Loop		Nature	4 - 5	Moderate
	Larganmore Loop	Foxford	Mountain	4 - 5	Moderate
	Prebaun Loop		Nature	3 - 3.5	Moderate
	Nature Loop	Cong	Nature	1	Easy
	Pigeon Hole Loop		Nature	1.5	Easy
	Fawnglass Loop	Clare Island	Island	1	Easy
	Knockavenna Loop		Island	2.5	Moderate
	Lough Coolaknick Loop	Inisturk	Island	1.5	Easy
	Mountain Common Loop		Island	2.5	Moderate
	Gob na Dubh Loop	Inisbiggle	Island	1 - 1.5	Easy
	Bull's Mouth Loop		Island	1.5 - 2	Easy
	Glen Loop	Bonniconlon	Nature	3.5 - 4	Moderate
	Adrumsheen	Cong	Nature	1	Easy
	Dooagh Loop	Achill Island	Island	1 - 1.5	Easy



CROAGH PATRICK, CO. MAYO

## The West Counties Pocket Guide

### LOOPED WALKS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Location	Category	Times (Hrs)	Difficulty
GALWAY	Diamond Hill	Letterfrack	Mountain	2	Moderate
	Westquarter Loop	Inishbofin Island	Island	1.5	Easy
	Middlequarter Loop		Island	1.5 - 2	Moderate
	Cloonamore Loop		Island	2 - 3	Moderate
	Lúb Dun Chonchúir	Inis Meain	Island	2 - 3	Easy
	Lúb Cill Cheannanach		Island	3 - 4	Easy
	Lúb Dun Fearbhai		Island	4 - 5	Moderate
	Lúb Ceathrú an Locha	Inis Oirr	Island	2 - 3	Easy
	Lúb Ceathrú an Phoillín		Island	4 - 5	Moderate
	CLARE	Ballycroom Loop	Feakle	Nature	2.5 - 3
Ballycuggaran Loop		Killaloe	Nature	1.5 - 2	Moderate
Ballyvaughan Wood Loop		Ballyvaughan	Nature	2 - 3.5	Easy
Black Head Loop		Fanore	Coastal	5 - 6	Difficult
Cahermurphy Loop		Flagmount	Nature	2.5 - 3	Moderate
Carron Loop		Carron	Nature	3 - 4	Moderate
Dromore Wood Loop		Ruan	Nature	1.5 - 2	Easy
Lough Awalla Farm Loop		Mullaghmore	Nature	2.5 - 3	Difficult
24a Parteen Weir		O'Briensbridge	Nature	1	Easy
24b Errina Bridge		O'Briensbridge	Nature	2	Easy
24c Old Barge		O'Briensbridge	Nature	3	Moderate
95a Doonbeg Loop		Doonbeg	Nature	2 - 2.5	Easy
95b Yullaher Loop	Doonbeg	Nature	4 - 5	Moderate	
LIMERICK	Attychraan Loop	Ballyhoura	Nature	1.5 - 2	Easy
	Ballinaboola Loop	Ballyhoura	Nature	2.5 - 3	Moderate
	Black Rock Loop	Ballyhoura	Mountain	3	Difficult
	Darbys Bed Loop	Ballyhoura	Nature	2 - 2.5	Moderate
	Donkey Sanctuary Loop	Ballyhoura	Nature	1	Easy
	Knockduv Loop	Ballyhoura	Nature	1 - 1.5	Easy
	Canon Sheehan Loop Walk	Ballyhoura	Nature	2 - 2.5	Easy
	Benard Loop	Anglesboro, Ballyhoura	Nature	4 - 5	Difficult
	Paradise Hill Loop	Anglesboro, Ballyhoura	Nature	3 - 4	Moderate
	Darragh Hills Loop	Darragh Hills, Ballyhoura	Mountain	2.5 - 3	Moderate
	Castle Gale Loop	Darragh Hills, Ballyhoura	Nature	1.5 - 2	Moderate
	Clare Glens Loop	Murroe	Nature	1 - 1.5	Easy
	Glenstal Woods Loop	Murroe	Nature	3 - 4	Moderate
	Nature Loop	Murroe	Nature	0.5 - 1	Easy
	Keeper Hill Loop	Ballyhourigan Woods	Nature	2.5 - 3	Moderate
	Knocknaree Woods	Silvermines	Nature	1.5 - 2	Moderate
	Silvermines				

## ACTIVITIES



## WAY MARKED WAYS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Start Point	End Point	Length (kms)
MAYO	Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail	Balla	Murrisk	61
	Western Way (Mayo)	Leenaun (Co Galway)	Ballycastle	124
GALWAY	Western Way (Galway)	Oughterard	Leenaun	55
	Hymany Way	Portumna Bridge	Aughrim	50
CLARE	Burren Way	Trailheads: Lahinch, Doolin, Lisdoonvarna, Ballyvaughan, Carran and Corrofin	Trailheads: Lahinch, Doolin, Lisdoonvarna, Ballyvaughan, Carran and Corrofin	123
	East Clare Way	Killaloe	Killaloe	180
	Lough Derg Way	Limerick City	Dromineer	68
LIMERICK	Mid Clare Way	Newmarket on Fergus	Newmarket on Fergus	148
	Ballyhoura Way	St. John's Bridge	Limerick Junction	89
	Lough Derg Way	Limerick City	Dromineer	68
	Sieve Felim Way	Murroe	Silvermines	43

**Fáilte Ireland Walking Site:**

[www.discoverireland.ie/walking](http://www.discoverireland.ie/walking)

This website contains very comprehensive information, walks are listed by county, and there is an accompanying orientation map to show the location of the walk and its starting point. There is then a more detailed route map showing the actual route of the looped walk.

**Useful Websites**

National Parks & Wildlife Service: [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

Irish Forestry Walks: [www.coillteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coillteoutdoors.ie)

Slí na Sláinte (Health Walks): [www.irisheart.ie](http://www.irisheart.ie)

Way Marked Ways of Ireland: [www.walkireland.ie](http://www.walkireland.ie)

Irish Trails: [www.irishtrails.ie](http://www.irishtrails.ie)

Shannon Region Trails: [www.shannonregiontrails.com](http://www.shannonregiontrails.com)



MAAMTURK MOUNTAINS, CO. GALWAY



GREENWAY WALKING & CYCLING, CO. MAYO

**ACTIVITIES**

## CYCLING OPERATORS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Contact
MAYO	Electric Escapes	Electric Bike Hire	Westport	087 7451155 www.electricscapes.ie
	Cycle Holidays Ireland	Guided Bicycle Tours	Gortanumera, Ballyshrute, Portumna	087 8321200 www.cycleholidaysireland.com
GALWAY	Cycle West Ireland	Guided and Self led Bicycle Tours	27 Pairc na hAhhainn, Athenry	091 877323 www.cyclewest.com
	Killary Tours	Guided and Self led Bicycle and Walking Tours	Leenane	095 42278 www.killaryadventure.com
CLARE	Goeco Ireland	Electric Bike Hire & Guided Tours	Cappamore	061 381427 www.goeco.ie
	Go Cycle Ireland	Bicycle Tours & Hire	Sixmilebridge	061 290 900 www.gocycleireland.com
	Loop Head Adventures Ltd	Bicycle Tours	Kilbaha	065 9058875
	Tierney Cycles & Fishing	Bike Rental	Ennis	065 6829433 www.ennisrentabike.com
	Burren Bike	Bike Rental	Ballyvaughan	086 3412875 www.burrenbike.com
	Bicycle Hire Williams Rent A Bike	Bike Rental	Kilkee	065 9056041
	Gleasons Cycles Bicycle Hire	Bike Rental	Kilrush	065 9051172
	Iron Donkey Bicycle Touring Clare & The Burren	Guided & Self-guided Bicycle Tours		087 9725332 www.irondonkey.com
	Cycle Holidays Ireland	Bicycle Tours		087 832 1200 www.cycleholidaysireland.com
	Irish Cycle Tours	Bicycle Tours		066 7128733 www.irishcycletours.com
LIMERICK	The Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Centre	Self-guided Bicycle Tours	Ballyhoura	063 91300 www.ballyhouramtb.com
	Limerick Bike Hire	Bike Rental	Newcastle West	069 61991 www.johnmulcahy.com
	Trailriders.ie	Bike rental, Guided Bicycle Tours	Ballyhoura	087 2717330 www.trailriders.ie
	Ballyhoura Bike Hire	Bike Rental	Ballyhoura	083 4052855/063 98525 www.ballyhourabikehire.com
	Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre	Bike rental, Guided Bicycle Tours	Kilfinane	063 91161 www.kilfinaneoc.com



BLACK HEAD, CO. CLARE

The West Counties  
Pocket Guide

## CYCLING ROUTES IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

	Name	Description	Address	Contact	
MAYO	Achill Cycle Hub	Looped Cycles of Achill Island	Achill Sound	098 25711 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	
	Great Western Greenway	18km traffic-free route along the old Newport/Mulranny railway	Westport	098 25711 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	
	Louisburgh Cycle Hub	3 looped routes from Louisburgh village	Louisburgh	098 25711 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	
	National Coastal Route	Linear route from Westport Town to Murrisk Abbey	Westport	098 25711 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	
GALWAY	Granuaile Cycle Trail	Historical trail following the footsteps of Grace O'Malley encircling Clew Bay	Clew Bay	098 25711 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	
	Derroura Mountain Bike Trail	Mountain Bike trail network over 16km in Connemara	Derroura, Oughterard,	www.coillteoutdoors.ie	
	Clifden Cycle Hub	3 looped cycling routes around Clifden	Clifden Tourist Office, Station House, Clifden	095 21163 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	
	Connemara By Bike	40km cycling loop around Ballyconneely and Roundstone	Clifden Tourist Office, Station House, Clifden	095 21163 www.discoverireland.ie/cycling	
	CLARE	Burren Cycleway	69km route with The Cliffs of Moher stretching for almost 8kms	Burren	065 6828366 www.shannonregiontrails.ie
		Dolmen Cycleway	Situated in the heart of the Burren	Burren	065 6828366 www.shannonregiontrails.ie
		Dolphin Cycleway	A day trip with an opportunity to see the Dolphins on Carrigaholt Bay	Carrigaholt	065 6828366 www.shannonregiontrails.ie
		Loop Head Cycleway	Two day tour along the fascinating Loop Head peninsula coastline	Loop Head Peninsula	065 6828366 www.shannonregiontrails.ie
		West Clare Cycleway	70km cycle route on the Shannon Estuary to the coastal resort of Lahinch	Killimer to Lahinch	065 6828366 www.shannonregiontrails.ie
	LIMERICK	Lough Derg Cycleway	Easy riding along the route could take several days	Lough Derg	065 6828366 www.shannonregiontrails.ie
Doolin Cycle Hub		Four new cycle routes varying from 18km to 47km of stunning coast	Doolin	065 6828366 www.shannonregiontrails.ie	
The Mouth Of The Shannon Cycling Tour		211km cycle route of the Shannon Estuary and the Atlantic Ocean	Shannon Estuary	061 317522 www.shannonregiontrails.ie	
The Land of Edmund Spenser		210kms Circle cycle route in the heart of Munster	Tourist Information Office, Limerick	061 317522 www.shannonregiontrails.ie	
Mouth of the River Shannon		Circle cycle route taking in the pasture plains of north Kerry and Limerick.	Tourist Information Office, Limerick	061 317522 www.shannonregiontrails.ie	
Kilmallock Cycle Hub		Cycle routes will guide you out to the countryside of farmland and forest	Kilmallock	061 317522 www.shannonregiontrails.ie	

## ACTIVITIES

# Festivals & Events

The Irish know how to celebrate and none more so than the people of the west of Ireland.

Most towns and villages have at least one annual festival, sporting or cultural event, which provide the opportunity to see the Irish at play and join in the exuberance of a real Irish party.

Such is the diversity of festivals in Counties Clare, Galway, Mayo and Limerick that there is an event for everyone, no matter what your interests.

> **Horse Racing** takes place in Galway, Mayo (Ballinrobe) and Limerick. The renowned Galway Racing Festival, one of Ireland's premier race meetings, takes place from Monday 25th – Sunday 31st July 2011.

> **Arts Festivals** include such events as The Galway Arts Festival - the foremost arts festival in Ireland, the Clifden Community Arts Festival, the Iniscealtra Festival of Arts, Mountshannon, Cuisle – Limerick International Poetry Festival and the Westport Arts Festival.

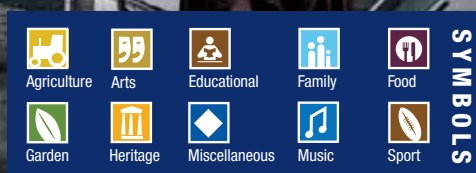
> **Music & Dance** festivals provide much variety for the social enthusiast. Traditional examples include Scoil Acla Music & Dance Festival (Achill Island), the Galway Sessions (Galway City), the Willie Clancy Summer School (Miltown Malbay), the Summer Music on the Shannon (Limerick), the Fleadh by the Feale (Abbeyfeale) while other varieties include the Castlebar Blues Festival and the Westport Folk & Bluegrass Festival.

> **Children's Festivals** The Baboró International Arts Festival in Galway City and the Roola Boola Children's Arts Festival in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, both taking place in October 2011, are the primary children's events in the West of Ireland.

> **Maritime Festivals** Include the Cruinniú na mBád Festival, celebrating the living tradition of sailing the beautiful Galway hookers and the Doonbeg Seafood festival.

The festivals and events mentioned above are but a brief synopsis of those taking place in 2011. For a complete calendar of events please see pages 170 to 185.

## ACTIVITIES





## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

### JANUARY

#### Mayo

##### RNLI New Years Day Swim

1st January.  
Silver Strand, Dugort,  
Achill Island, Co. Mayo.  
E: [info@achilltourism.com](mailto:info@achilltourism.com)  
[www.achilltourism.com](http://www.achilltourism.com)  
New Years Day swim for charity in  
Achill Island.



#### Galway

##### Scoil Gheimhridh Mherriman – Merriman Winter School

28th – 30th January.  
Meyrick Hotel, Eyre Square,  
Galway City.

E: [eolas@merriman.ie](mailto:eolas@merriman.ie)  
[www.merriman.ie](http://www.merriman.ie)

Ta sé mar aidhm ag Cumann Merriman  
suim a chothú in gach gné de chultúr  
na hÉireann: an teanga, an stair, an  
litríocht, an rince, an ceol.



##### Lá Féile Bhríde

30th January.  
Brigit's Garden, Roscahill, Co. Galway.

E: [info@brigitsgarden.ie](mailto:info@brigitsgarden.ie)  
[www.brigitsgarden.ie](http://www.brigitsgarden.ie)

Celebrate Brigit's Day with a family  
afternoon of cross-making, traditional  
music and Brigit traditions.



#### Clare

##### Shannonside Winter Music Weekend

12th – 15th January.  
Sixmilebridge & Bunratty, Co. Clare.  
T: 086 8464509  
[www.wmw.ie](http://www.wmw.ie)

Folk, roots, bluegrass, jazz, gospel  
and traditional music and more in over  
30 events in intimate venues.



#### Limerick

##### Unfringed Festival

26th – 30th January.  
Limerick City  
T: 061 319866  
[www.belltable.ie](http://www.belltable.ie)

Limerick's performance festival has  
something for everyone, theatre, music,  
comedy, cinema & readings.



### FEBRUARY

#### Galway

##### Safety Direct Galway International Rally

4th – 6th February.  
Galway City & County  
E: [cogalwaymc@hotmail.com](mailto:cogalwaymc@hotmail.com)  
[www.galwayinternationalrally.com](http://www.galwayinternationalrally.com)

The Safety Direct Galway International  
Rally is the opening round of the Irish  
Tarmac Rally Championship based in  
Galway city and county.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

#### Tedfest 5

24th – 27th February.  
Inis Mór & Inis Oirr,  
Aran Islands, Co. Galway.

The kettle is on and organisers are  
gearing up for Tedfest 5, with various  
events taking place on the Aran Islands.  
Tedfest is a unique celebration of Fr  
Ted, and includes highlights such as  
Ted's Got Talent, The Craggy Cup, The  
Lovely Girls Contest, A Priests' versus  
Nuns' Beach volleyball tournament, etc.



#### Clare

##### Russell Memorial Weekend

24th – 27th February.  
Doolin, Co. Clare.  
T: 065 7074595  
[www.michorussellweekend.ie](http://www.michorussellweekend.ie)

A weekend of traditional music, song  
and dance with workshops in several  
instruments.



##### Corofin Trad Festival

27th Feb – 4th March.  
Corofin, Co. Clare.  
T: 086 6070941  
[www.corofintradfest.com](http://www.corofintradfest.com)  
A festival of traditional music sessions  
and concerts.



#### Limerick

##### Kate O'Brien Weekend

25th – 27th February.  
Limerick City.  
T: 061 407421  
[www.kateobrienweekend.com](http://www.kateobrienweekend.com)  
Annual literary event in honour of  
Limerick born author Kate O'Brien.



### MARCH

#### Mayo

##### St. Patrick's Day Pipe Band Parade

17th March.  
Achill Island, Co. Mayo.  
E: [info@achilltourism.com](mailto:info@achilltourism.com)  
[www.achilltourism.com](http://www.achilltourism.com)

A gathering of the Achill Pipe Bands,  
who perform after midday mass,  
followed by a parade through the  
villages.



##### The Croagh Walking Festival

18th – 20th March.  
Resource Centre, Mayo Abbey,  
Claremorris, Co. Mayo.  
E: [info@croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com](mailto:info@croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com)  
[www.croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com](http://www.croaghpatrickheritagetrail.com)

The festival consists of a 3 day  
organised walk along the Croagh  
Heritage Trail taking in castles,  
prehistoric standing stones and tombs,  
ancient villages, towns and abbeys.  
Over 200 walkers are expected. On  
each day walkers will be brought to the  
start and picked up at the finish point.



##### Harlequin Adventure Duathlon

26th March.  
Harlequin Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.  
E: [info@runireland.com](mailto:info@runireland.com)  
[www.runireland.com](http://www.runireland.com)

Harlequin Adventure Duathlon  
consists of 3km run, 7km hill climb,  
8km trial mountain run, 15km cycle  
and a 3km run.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

### ACTIVITIES

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

### St. Patrick's Festival Kiltimagh

14th – 17th March.  
Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo.

E: [tourism@ird-kiltimagh.ie](mailto:tourism@ird-kiltimagh.ie)  
[www.ird-kiltimagh.ie](http://www.ird-kiltimagh.ie)

The Kiltimagh St. Patrick's Festival is a multi-disciplinary festival, aiming to satisfy a diverse audience which includes locals, national neighbours and overseas visitors!



### Galway

#### St. Patrick's Festival Galway

12th – 17th March.  
Galway City.

E: [craig@stpatricksgalway.com](mailto:craig@stpatricksgalway.com)  
[www.stpatricksgalway.com](http://www.stpatricksgalway.com)

A festival that celebrates our national holiday through a series of events which mainly happen on the streets of Galway, culminating in a spectacular street parade on 17th March.



### Clare

#### Ennis Book Club Festival

2nd – 4th March.  
Ennis, Co. Clare.

T: 087 2262259  
[www.ennisbookclubfestival.com](http://www.ennisbookclubfestival.com)

A wonderful social and literary gathering bringing together book club members and readers from all over Ireland and beyond.



#### Clare Drama Festival

17th – 26th March.  
Scariff, Co. Clare.

T: 087 2686764

Enjoy a series of excellent plays.



### Limerick

#### Limerick St Patricks Festival

16th – 18th March.  
Limerick City.

T: 061 400200  
[www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival](http://www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival)

Lots of fun including St Patrick's Day parade, international band parade and more.



#### Fresh Film Festival

21st – 24th March.  
Limerick City.

T: +353 (0)61 319555  
[www.freshfilmfestival.net](http://www.freshfilmfestival.net)

Fresh Film Festival is a National Youth Festival held in Limerick every March.



## APRIL

### Mayo

#### Addergoole Titanic Festival

14th – 15th April.  
Lahardane, Co. Mayo.

E: [info@addergoole-titanic.com](mailto:info@addergoole-titanic.com)  
[www.addergoole-titanic.com](http://www.addergoole-titanic.com)

A unique gathering to commemorate 14 emigrants from Lahardane, Co. Mayo who sailed on the Titanic 99 years ago, 11 of whom died when Titanic sank.



#### Mayo's Annual RMS Titanic

##### Bell Ringing Commemoration Ceremony

14th – 15th April.  
St Patrick's Church, Lahardane,  
Ballina, Co. Mayo.

E: [info@addergoole-titanic.com](mailto:info@addergoole-titanic.com)  
[www.mayo-titanic.com](http://www.mayo-titanic.com)

Lahardane is the only location in Europe where the sinking of RMS Titanic is remembered by the tolling of a lonely church bell in the dead of night.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Cong Lakes Walking Weekend

29th April – 2nd May.  
Cong, Co. Mayo.

E: [info@tourismpurewalking.com](mailto:info@tourismpurewalking.com)  
[www.tourismpurewalking.com](http://www.tourismpurewalking.com)

A guided walking weekend for nature and outdoor lovers. Walk in woodland, lakeshores and Connemara hills. Maximum group size is 18 people. Full board.



### Féile Chois Cuain

29th April – 2nd May.  
Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.

E: [feilechoiscuain@yahoo.com](mailto:feilechoiscuain@yahoo.com)  
[www.feilechoiscuain.com](http://www.feilechoiscuain.com)

A celebration of traditional music, song and dance. Deireadh seachtaine amhránaíochta, ceoil agus damhsa.



### Heinrich Boll Memorial Weekend

29th April – 2nd May.  
Achill Island, Co. Mayo.

E: [hbollachill@anu.ie](mailto:hbollachill@anu.ie)  
[www.achilltourism.com](http://www.achilltourism.com)

Celebrates the life of Heinrich Boll and his time in Achill.



### Mayo Pink Ribbon Cycle

30th April.  
Starts and finishes at The TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

E: [info@theroyal.ie](mailto:info@theroyal.ie)  
[www.theroyal.ie](http://www.theroyal.ie)

Mayo Pink Ribbon Cycle is a 100km cycle taking place on Saturday 30th April (May Bank Holiday Weekend) to raise funds to fight breast cancer.



### Achill Island Walking Festival

30th April – 2nd May 2011.  
Achill, Co. Mayo.

Achill Island Walking Festival is held annually, and includes guided and self guided walks. It is a unique festival in that it includes St. Patrick's Day Parades with the traditional pipe bands.



### Galway

#### Connemara International Marathon

10th April.  
Maam Cross, Connemara, Co. Galway.

E: [angela@proactive.ie](mailto:angela@proactive.ie)  
[www.connemarathon.com](http://www.connemarathon.com)

Scenic marathon with mountain and lake views, offering Ultra 39.9 mile, Full 26.6 mile and Half 13.3 mile distances. Walkers and runners welcome.



#### Cúirt International Festival of Literature

12th – 17th April.  
Town Hall Theatre and Various venues around Galway City.

E: [norma@galwayartscentre.ie](mailto:norma@galwayartscentre.ie)  
[www.galwayartscentre.ie/cuirt](http://www.galwayartscentre.ie/cuirt)

The Cúirt International Festival of Literature is Ireland's premier literacy festival.



#### Clifden Traditional Music Festival

15th – 17th April.  
Clifden, Co. Galway.

E: [clifdence@yahoo.ie](mailto:clifdence@yahoo.ie)  
[www.clifdentradfest.com](http://www.clifdentradfest.com)

Clifden Traditional Music Festival is a free weekend of traditional music, song and dance with concerts, sessions, workshops and outdoor entertainment.



## ACTIVITIES

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

### Easter Festival 2011

16th April – 2nd May.  
Slieve Aughty Centre, Kylebrack West,  
Loughrea, Co. Galway.

E: [info@riding-centre.com](mailto:info@riding-centre.com)  
[www.riding-centre.com](http://www.riding-centre.com)

Free family activities, pony rides and our famous pancakes! Stop by any day from 12-7 and support a great cause at the Easter Sunday Charity Ride.



### Roundstone Easter Egg Hunt

25th April.  
Errisbeg House & Stable Gallery,  
Roundstone, Connemara, Co. Galway.

E: [destacpoole@eircom.net](mailto:destacpoole@eircom.net)  
[www.roundstone.ie](http://www.roundstone.ie)

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is for all children under 12 years of age.



### Féile Chomórtha Joe Éinniú/ The Joe Heaney Commemorative Festival of Traditional Singing

29th April – 1st May.  
Carna, Connemara, Co. Galway.

E: [michealocuaig@hotmail.com](mailto:michealocuaig@hotmail.com)

Féile Joe Éinniú is a festival of traditional Sean-Nós singing, music and dance held in Carna, Connemara, in memory of singer Joe Heaney.



### Leenane Mountain Walking Festival

29th April – 1st May.  
Leenane, Co. Galway.

E: [mary@killary.com](mailto:mary@killary.com)  
[www.leenanevillage.com](http://www.leenanevillage.com)

Mountain walking festival in Connemara. Guides, transport, maps included.



## Clare

### PJ Hayes Memorial Weekend

30th April – 2nd May.  
Feakle, Co. Clare.

T: 061 924885

Traditional music celebrating the memory of PJ Hayes.



## Limerick

### Fleadh by the Feale

28th April – 2nd May.  
Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

T: 086 3265762  
[www.fleadhbythefeale.com](http://www.fleadhbythefeale.com)

Traditional music festival and much more!



### Limerick Riverfest

29th April – 2nd May.  
Limerick City.

T: +353 (0)61 400200  
[www.limerick.ie/riverfest](http://www.limerick.ie/riverfest)

Limerick will kick off Ireland's biggest party over the May Bank Holiday weekend with a sizzling line up of BBQ treats, music, sport and fun for all.



## MAY

## Mayo

### Fleadh Cheoil Mhaigheo (Mayo County Fleadh Cheoil)

5th – 8th May.  
Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

E: [helenduggan1@gmail.com](mailto:helenduggan1@gmail.com)

Traditional Irish music, song and dance competitions for performers from age 10 and up. Concerts and ceilis, street sessions and pub sessions.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### River Moy Half Marathon

14th May.  
Ballina, Co. Mayo.

E: [rivermoymarathon@gmail.com](mailto:rivermoymarathon@gmail.com)  
[www.rivermoymarathon.ie](http://www.rivermoymarathon.ie)

A half marathon which takes in Ballina, Co. Mayo on May 14 at 11am.  
Run Wild Run West!!!



### Féile na Tuaithe Turlough Park 2011

21st – 22nd May.  
National Museum of Ireland -  
Country Life, Turlough Park,  
Castlebar, Co. Mayo

E: [feile@museum.ie](mailto:feile@museum.ie)  
A free, two day celebration of country life and traditions.



### Ballinrobe Race Meetings

30th – 31st May.  
Ballinrobe, Co Mayo.

[www.goracing.ie](http://www.goracing.ie)  
Horse racing at the famous Mayo track.



## Galway

### Connemara Adventure Challenge

7th May.  
Killary Adventure Centre, Leenane,  
Co. Galway.

E: [info@connemaraadventurechallenge.com](mailto:info@connemaraadventurechallenge.com)  
[www.gaelforceevents.com](http://www.gaelforceevents.com)

The race will take the format of 3 disciplines: trail/mountain running (walking and jogging also accepted!), Kayaking and cycling.



### Trad on the Prom

17th May – 29th September.  
Salthill Hotel, Galway.

E: [chriskellymusic@eircom.net](mailto:chriskellymusic@eircom.net)  
[www.tradontheprom.com](http://www.tradontheprom.com)

Firmly established as the number 1 show in Ireland, Trad on the Prom features the very best of Irish music, song and dance from its star studded cast.



### Galway Early Music Festival

19th – 22nd June.  
Galway City.

Early music from Irish harpers of the 17th century to the court musicians of Europe.



## Clare

### Burren in Bloom

1st – 31st May.  
Burren, Co. Clare.

T: 065 7077077  
[www.burreninbloom.com](http://www.burreninbloom.com)

A celebration of the arrival of the May flowers in the Burren.



### Clare Sacred Sounds Folk Concert Series

2nd May – 30th September.  
Tuamgraney, Co. Clare.

T: 087 2728069  
[www.claresacredsounds.com](http://www.claresacredsounds.com)

The concert series will begin on May 2nd 2011 and will run throughout the summer.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES



## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

### Burren Slow Food Festival

20th – 22nd May.  
Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.  
T: 065 7074432  
[www.slowfoodclare.com](http://www.slowfoodclare.com)

A great line up of speakers, vendors and demonstrations with plenty for children to participate in too.



### Iniscealtra Festival of Arts

May 28th – June 6th.  
Mountshannon, Co. Clare.  
T: 086 2380555

[www.iniscealtra-artsfestival.org](http://www.iniscealtra-artsfestival.org)  
Multi-disciplinary arts festival including music, dance, visual art, drama and participatory workshops.



## JUNE

### Mayo

#### Castlebar Blues Festival 2011

3rd – 6th June.  
Castlebar, Co. Mayo.  
E: [info@castlebarblues.com](mailto:info@castlebarblues.com)  
[www.castlebarblues.com](http://www.castlebarblues.com)

Castlebar Blues Festival is the longest running blues festival in Ireland and takes place every year during the June Bank Holiday weekend.



#### Scoil Acla Set Dancing & Song Weekend

4th – 6th June.  
Achill Island, Co. Mayo.  
[www.scoilaccla.com](http://www.scoilaccla.com)  
A weekend of set dancing workshops, ceili's and singing workshops. All part of the Scoil Acla centenary celebrations.



### Tri-Burgh

4th June.  
Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.  
E: [info@triburgh.ie](mailto:info@triburgh.ie)  
[www.triburgh.ie](http://www.triburgh.ie)

Tri-Burgh is a triathlon catering for sprint and Olympic distances set in the most dramatic scenery in Ireland.



### Clare Island Singles Weekend

10th – 12th June.  
Clare Island, Co. Mayo.  
[www.clare-island.org](http://www.clare-island.org)

The Clare Island Singles weekend is for people aged 30+ and includes the Ballroom of Romance and computer and blind dating, romantic walks on the Island etc.



### 55th Westport International Sea Angling Festival

22nd – 26th June.  
Clew Bay, Westport, Co. Mayo.  
E: [rayjulieconnolly@eircom.net](mailto:rayjulieconnolly@eircom.net)  
[www.westportseaanglingfestival.eu](http://www.westportseaanglingfestival.eu)

The longest running Sea Angling Festival of its kind in Ireland and possibly Europe, fished in the beautiful bountiful waters of Clew Bay.



### Westport 5th Folk & Bluegrass Festival

24th – 26th June.  
Various venues in Westport Town, Co. Mayo.  
E: [uricp@yahoo.ie](mailto:uricp@yahoo.ie)  
The best of local, national and international folk and bluegrass music in the unique surroundings of Westport.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Castlebar International

4 Days' Walks  
30th June – 3rd July.  
Castlebar, Co Mayo & various venues in Co. Mayo.  
E: [info@castlebar4dayswalks.com](mailto:info@castlebar4dayswalks.com)  
[www.castlebar4dayswalks.com](http://www.castlebar4dayswalks.com)

Since 1967 Castlebar's International 4 Days' Walks has attracted walkers from all over the world to discover the bogs, rivers, mountains, flora and fauna in the unique location that is the west of Ireland.



### Galway

#### Havana Cultural Festival

3rd – 5th June.  
Latin Quarter, Galway City.  
[www.thelatinquarter.ie](http://www.thelatinquarter.ie)

Galway's Latin Quarter will be alive with Latin music, dance, street entertainment, art and cultural events.



#### Salthill Devon 5-a-side Soccer Tournament

4th and 5th June.  
Salthill, Galway.  
Email: [info@galwaycup.com](mailto:info@galwaycup.com)  
Tel: 087 7442877 (Denis)

36th Annual 5-a-side soccer event held in Salthill and sponsored by Carlsberg.



#### World Ocean Day – Galway Atlantaquaria

12th June.  
Salthill, Galway.  
[www.nationalaquarium.ie](http://www.nationalaquarium.ie)  
Celebrating World Ocean Day with lots of fun activities for all ages!



### Galway Sessions

13th – 19th June.  
Galway City.  
[www.galwaysessions.com](http://www.galwaysessions.com)  
The music sessions take place in multiple venues in Galway City.



### Dusty Banjos – Cleggan Music Weekend

23rd – 26th June.  
Cleggan, Connemara, Co. Galway.  
[www.dustybanjos.com](http://www.dustybanjos.com)  
Music weekend with rockin' sessions every night and loads to do during the day... not to be missed!!!



### Clare

#### Doonbeg International Jazz Festival

3rd – 6th June.  
Doonbeg, Co. Clare.  
T: 065 9055345  
[www.doonbegjazz.com](http://www.doonbegjazz.com)

Weekend featuring artists and performers from Europe, UK and Ireland.



### Limerick

#### Foynes Irish Coffee Festival

3rd – 5th June 2011.  
Foynes, Co. Limerick.  
T: +353 69 65416  
[www.foynesfestival.com](http://www.foynesfestival.com)

The Irish Coffee Making Championships take place along with a 'Fun Day on the Water', parades, air display, food fairs and lots to keep the kids entertained.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

### Twilight Summer Racing

11th & 17th June & 21st July.  
Limerick Racecourse,  
Patrickswell, Limerick  
T: 061 320000  
[www.limerickraces.ie](http://www.limerickraces.ie)  
Evening racing with live music.



### Athea Road Races

25th – 26th June  
Athea, Co. Limerick.  
T: 087 2221714  
[www.athearoadrace.com](http://www.athearoadrace.com)  
International motorcycle road  
race event.



## JULY

### Mayo

#### Ballina Salmon Festival

10th – 17th July.  
Ballina, Co. Mayo.  
[www.ballinasalmonfestival.ie](http://www.ballinasalmonfestival.ie)

Ballina Salmon Festival is Ireland's  
premier family-orientated festival  
giving thousands of people, ten days  
of fun-filled artistic and cultural events  
catering for all age groups.



#### Feile Bia na Mara (Achill Seafood Festival)

14th – 17th July.  
[www.feilebianamara.ie](http://www.feilebianamara.ie)  
Seafood festival including seafood  
banquet, cookery demonstrations.



### Ballinrobe Races

18th and 19th July.  
Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.  
[www.hri.ie](http://www.hri.ie)

Race meetings have been recorded in  
this area since 1773. This modern and  
fun-filled course is a must visit!



### Siamsa Straide

29th July – 3rd August.  
Swinford Town, Co. Mayo.  
Swinford street festival with music and  
entertainment for all the family.



### Galway

#### Galway Film Fleadh

5th – 10th July.  
Galway City.  
[www.galwayfilmfleadh.com](http://www.galwayfilmfleadh.com)

The Galway Film Fleadh, a six day  
international film event held every July,  
welcomes a mad diversity of filmmaking  
from around the world.



#### Galway Arts Festival

11th – 24th July.  
Galway City.  
[www.galwayartsfestival.com](http://www.galwayartsfestival.com)

Over its 30 year history the Festival  
has become a vital showcase for Irish  
arts and international arts and is now  
firmly established as Ireland's leading  
arts festival. The Festival collaborates  
with artists and companies throughout  
the world to initiate commission and  
produce new work.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Galway Races, Ballybrit

25th July – 31st July.  
Galway City  
[www.galwayraces.com](http://www.galwayraces.com)

The Summer Festival Race Meeting  
at the Galway Races is renowned  
worldwide for its electric atmosphere,  
excellent racing and infectious sense of  
fashion and fun.



### Omey Races

31st July.  
Omey, Co. Galway.  
[www.connemara.ie](http://www.connemara.ie)

Traditional Beach Racing on this  
beautiful tidal Island near Clifden.  
Promises a fantastic atmosphere  
and great fun.



### Clare

#### Willie Clancy Summer School

2nd – 10th July.  
Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare.  
T: 065 7084281  
[www.willieclancyfestival.com](http://www.willieclancyfestival.com)

Ireland's largest traditional music  
summer school.



#### Doonbeg Seafood Festival

15th – 17th July.  
Doonbeg, Co. Clare.  
T: 087 2996184  
[www.doonbegseafoodfestival.com](http://www.doonbegseafoodfestival.com)

2 Day festival with seafood cooking  
demonstrations, marine education,  
music and family fun.



### South East Clare Agricultural Show

24th July 2011.  
Bridgetown, Co. Clare.  
T: 061 377778  
[www.bridgetownshow.com](http://www.bridgetownshow.com)  
Annual show of horses, ponies, show  
jumping, cattle, novelty events and  
much more.



### Scariff Harbour Festival

29th – 31st July.  
Scariff, Co. Clare.  
T: 061 921685  
[www.scariff.ie](http://www.scariff.ie)

A varied programme of activities, arts,  
music and entertainment inspired by  
the 'lake' theme.



### Limerick

#### Adare Village Festival

2nd – 3rd July.  
Adare, Co. Limerick.  
T: 061 396666  
[www.adare-ireland.com](http://www.adare-ireland.com)

Live music, theatre, food and craft  
markets and lots to keep the kids  
entertained.



#### Pig n Porter Tag Rugby Festival

15th – 17th July.  
Old Crescent RFC, Limerick City.  
T: 061 400010  
[www.pignporter.com](http://www.pignporter.com)

World's largest tag rugby event with  
lots of fun and entertainment.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

### Summer Music on the Shannon

25th July – 14th August.  
Limerick.

T: 065 7087566

Workshops & performances including children's opera theatre.



### The Beast of Ballyhoura

29th July – 1st August.  
Ballyhoura, Co. Limerick.

T: 063 91300

[www.ballyhourabeast.com](http://www.ballyhourabeast.com)

The event features a uniquely Irish. 36 hour non-stop race across the ancient & magical surroundings of Ballyhoura.



## AUGUST

### Mayo

### Bonniconlon Agricultural Show

1st August.  
Bonniconlon, Co. Mayo.  
[www.bonniconlonshow.ie](http://www.bonniconlonshow.ie)

Agricultural show in the quintessential rural village of Bonniconlon on the outskirts of Ballina.



### Westport Music Festival

5th – 7th August.  
Westport, Co. Mayo.

[www.westportmusicfestival.com](http://www.westportmusicfestival.com)

A free open air music festival with entertainment to suit all the family.



### Geesala Race Festival

7th – 14th August.  
Geesala, Co. Mayo.

Family fun festival with events for all ages.



### Westport Get Out There Adventure Festival

18th – 21st August.  
Westport, Co. Mayo.

[www.westportadventurefestival.ie](http://www.westportadventurefestival.ie)

The festival actively invites visitors to give it a go – to try out different adventure activities and sports for themselves.



### Gael Force West

20th August.  
Westport, Co. Mayo.

[www.gaelforcewest.ie](http://www.gaelforcewest.ie)

Gaelforce 6 is a 65k run/cycle/climb/kayak for novice racers, an introduction to Adventure Racing. It takes athletes across tropical beaches, Killary harbour – Ireland's only fjord, and terrain voted one of the top ten drives in the world.



### Galway

### Umbro Galway Cup Tournament

3rd – 6th August.  
Galway City East Area, Galway City.  
[www.galwaycup.com](http://www.galwaycup.com)

An underage international soccer event which attracts teams from all over Ireland and abroad to compete for the Umbro Cup.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Roundstone Summerfest

15th – 21st August.  
Roundstone, Co. Galway.

[www.roundstonesummerfest.com](http://www.roundstonesummerfest.com)

A festival of music, fun, laughter, activities and games for the young and the young-at-heart, which also doubles as a four day charity fundraiser for The Irish Lifeboats Service (RNLI).



### Earwig Tuam Arts Festival

19th – 28th August.  
Tuam, Co. Galway.

[www.earwigart.com](http://www.earwigart.com)

A performance platform for the wealth of creative talent in Tuam and its environs while also attracting national and internationally acclaimed acts.



### The Connemara Pony Show

18th – 19th August.  
Clifden, Co. Galway.

[www.cpbs.ie](http://www.cpbs.ie)

The Connemara Pony is a distinctive breed with excellent qualities: strong, intelligent and very hard working, perfect for the wild unforgiving landscape of Connemara, the Galway region that gave them their name.



### Cruinniú na mBád Festival

12th – 14th August.  
Kinvara, Co. Galway.

[www.kinvara.com](http://www.kinvara.com)

Celebrating the living tradition of the sailing of the beautiful Galway Hookers, this fabulous regatta hosts the legendary turf boats as the harbour village of Kinvara throws itself into a frenzy of sessions with the cream of Irish traditional music and singers.



### Galway Races

27th – 29th August.  
Ballybrit, Galway City.

[www.galwayraces.com](http://www.galwayraces.com)

Adrenalin-pumping action, heart-stopping finishes and breath-taking fashion; you are at the Galway Races. Situated on the outskirts of Galway city, in the West of Ireland, the Galway Race Festivals are world renowned.



### Clare

### Feakle International Trad Festival

3rd – 8th August 2011.  
Feakle, Co. Clare.

T: 061 924885

[www.feaklefestival.ie](http://www.feaklefestival.ie)

Musicians from local and overseas traditional backgrounds share in a unique musical experience.



### Kilrush Traditional Music & Set Dancing Weekend

10th – 14th August.  
Kilrush, Co. Clare.

T: 086 0854834

[www.comhaltas.ie](http://www.comhaltas.ie)

Festival of traditional music including class, sessions, set dancing classes and celi's.



### Sky Ride Etape Hibernia

21st August.  
Ennis, Co. Clare.

[www.etapehibernia.com](http://www.etapehibernia.com)

82 mile closed road cycle event through North and West Clare.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES



## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

### Limerick

#### Limerick Show

27th – 28th August 2011.  
Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell,  
Co. Limerick.

T: +353 (0)61 355298  
[www.limerickshow.com](http://www.limerickshow.com)

Munster's Largest Agricultural show, incorporating horse and pony showing, cattle and calf showing, horse and pony jumping.



## SEPTEMBER

### Mayo

#### Ballinrobe Agricultural Show

4th September.  
Ballinrobe, Co Mayo  
Classes include jumping, horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, dogs, fowl, farm and garden, cookery, flowers, home craft, art and children's section.



### Galway

#### Ironman 70.3 Series

4th September.  
Galway City.  
[www.ironmanireland.com](http://www.ironmanireland.com)

The renowned Ironman 70.3 Series takes place in Galway where athletes have to swim 1.9km in Galway bay, complete a bike course of 90km and run 21.1km through Salthill and Galway city.



#### Creative Writers Workshop,

5th – 9th September.  
Inishmore, Co. Galway.  
[www.thecreativewritersworkshop.com](http://www.thecreativewritersworkshop.com)  
A two day invigorating and unique writing workshop titled 'Writing and Walking on Inishmore'.



#### Clarinbridge Oyster Festival

9th – 11th September.  
Clarinbridge, Co. Galway.  
[www.clarinbridge.com](http://www.clarinbridge.com)

This festival celebrates the opening of the Oyster season and offers many events for you to participate in and enjoy.



#### Galway Americana Festival

15th – 18th September.  
Galway City.

[www.galwayamericanafestival.com](http://www.galwayamericanafestival.com)

Music festival exploring the musical relationship and mutual heritage of Ireland and America.



#### Clifden Arts Festival

15th – 25th September.  
Clifden, Co. Galway.

[www.clifdenartsweek.ie](http://www.clifdenartsweek.ie)

Eclectic mix of music, song, dance and culture for all ages with a community based theme.



#### Galway International Oyster Festival

22nd – 25th September.  
Galway City.

[www.galwayoysterfest.com](http://www.galwayoysterfest.com)

Galway International Oyster Festival has been voted one of the 12 greatest shows on Earth. A weekend of non-stop entertainment which features top class national and international artists.



### Clare

#### Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival

1st September – 2nd October.  
Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare.

T: 065 7074005  
[www.matchmakerireland.com](http://www.matchmakerireland.com)

One of Europe's largest matchmaking festivals.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

#### Tulla Traditional Music Festival

9th – 11th September 2011.  
Tulla, Co. Clare.

T: 087 1473385  
[www.tullatradfestival.com](http://www.tullatradfestival.com)

A great weekend of music, song, dance, workshops, recitals and concerts.



#### The Burren Peaks Walking Festival

23rd – 25th September.  
Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare.

T: 087 7779714  
[www.burrenpeakswalkingfestival.com](http://www.burrenpeakswalkingfestival.com)

A real taste of the Burren with guided walks varying in distance and grade.



## OCTOBER

### Mayo

#### Westport Arts Festival

1st – 10th October.  
Westport, Co. Mayo.  
[www.westportartsfestival.com](http://www.westportartsfestival.com)

Westport Arts Festival is a locally run event for the enjoyment of the thousands of tourists who visit the area annually.



#### Achill Sheep Show

9th October.  
Achill Island, Co. Mayo.  
[www.achillsheepshow.com](http://www.achillsheepshow.com)

Sheep Show with competitions such as "Glamorous Gran", "Hairiest Sheepman", and lots of fun for the children, including face painting, art competition, etc. There will be weaving and stalls with home-grown and home-made produce, and competitions for best jams, best bread, best vegetable and floral arrangements.



#### Roolaboola Children's Arts Festival

24th – 31st October.  
Castlebar, Co. Mayo.  
[www.thelinenhall.com](http://www.thelinenhall.com)

Roolaboola is the Linenhall Art Centre's funky and fantastic arts festival for young people, with a packed programme of quality shows, events and workshops, for ages 2-16 years and their families.



### Galway

#### Ballinasloe October Fair

1st – 9th October.  
Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.  
[www.ballinasloe.com](http://www.ballinasloe.com)

A 9 day event to cater for equestrian lovers. Family entertainment, music and craic. There is something at this fair and festival to suit all tastes.



#### Baboró International Arts Festival

17th – 23rd October.  
Galway City.  
[www.baboro.ie](http://www.baboro.ie)

Baboró International Arts Festival for Children is recognized as the leading Irish arts festival devoted exclusively to children. It is the premier festival of its kind in Ireland and celebrates 13 years of presenting a multidisciplinary arts festival to thousands of children in the West of Ireland.



#### Galway Comedy Festival

21st – 25th October.  
Galway City.  
[www.galwaycomedyfestival.com](http://www.galwaycomedyfestival.com)

The Festival will entertain you to some of the most magical, hysterical and outright funny folk on the planet, all for your enjoyment.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

### Galway Races October Bank Holiday

22nd – 23rd October.

Ballybrit, Galway City.

[www.galwayraces.com](http://www.galwayraces.com)

This is a 2 day race meeting over the leisurely bank Holiday Weekend. A special family day is hosted on the Monday with a marquee full of entertainment for the kids including a Halloween party, tricks and treats.



### Limerick

### Cuise, International Poetry Festival

12th – 15th October 2011.

Limerick City.

T: +353 (0)61 407421

[www.cuise.limerick.ie](http://www.cuise.limerick.ie)

Limericks' long association with poetry makes Cuise the perfect opportunity and place for audiences to extend their experience of poetry during four festival days of readings, book launches and workshops with the leading contemporary poets of our time.



## NOVEMBER

### Mayo

### Westport Sea2Summit Festival

12th November.

Westport.

[www.westportsea2summit.ie](http://www.westportsea2summit.ie)

Adventure race incorporating Croagh Patrick, Clew Bay, the Sheaffry Mountains and the new Greenway.



### Galway

### Maam Cross Fair

1st November.

Maam Cross, Co. Galway.

Email: [info@peacockes.ie](mailto:info@peacockes.ie)

The historic one-day fair stems from the tradition of local farmers selling their surplus produce at the crossroads in order to supplement the meager living which they eked from the rocky Connemara landscape.



### Spirit of Voice Festival

11th – 13th November.

Galway City.

[www.spiritofvoice.com](http://www.spiritofvoice.com)

A cultural celebration of song and spoken word in various venues across Galway City.



### Junior Film Fleadh

16th – 19th November.

Galway City

[www.juniorfilmfleadh.com](http://www.juniorfilmfleadh.com)

The Junior Film Fleadh aims to be a vehicle to encourage young people to become involved in film through screenings, workshops and other related activities.



### Tulca Season of Visual Art

4th – 20th November.

Galway City and County.

A season of contemporary visual arts exhibitions, live-art performances, discussions & talks aiming to offer opportunities of local, national and international artists and to develop and stimulate the growing visual culture in the city and county.



For full up to date Festival details log on to [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Note: Dates for any of the events may be subject to change. Please check before attending.

### Clare

### Ennis Trad Festival

10th – 14th November.

T: 086 307050

[www.ennistradfestival.com](http://www.ennistradfestival.com)

Over 100 sessions, live CD launches, master classes, dance classes and more.



### Limerick

### Georgian Christmas Market

19th – 20th November.

No.1 Pery Square Hotel & Spa, Limerick.

T: 061 402 402

[www.limerickgeorgianmarket.com](http://www.limerickgeorgianmarket.com)

Market stalls include local artisan food producers, arts & crafts, seasonal gifts with a difference and much more.



## DECEMBER

### Mayo

### Christmas Events at Graune Pet Farm

December (Dates TBC).

Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.

More information can be found at.

[www.graunepetfarmandplaycentre.ie](http://www.graunepetfarmandplaycentre.ie) or by calling 094 9633980.

### Clare

### Santa at Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

4th – 23rd December.

Bunratty, Co. Clare.

T: 061 360788.

[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)

See Santa Claus, the Elves and Mrs. Claus baking in her kitchen. Storytelling, live puppet shows, dancing and more. Reservations necessary.

### Galway

### Christmas Events:

#### Galway City Christmas Market

Church Lane, beside St. Nicholas Church.

[www.galwaymarket.com](http://www.galwaymarket.com)

#### Galway Continental Christmas Market

Eyre Square, Galway City

[www.galwaychristmasmarket.ie](http://www.galwaychristmasmarket.ie)

#### Galway Bay on Ice

South Park, Claddagh, Galway City.

[www.galwaybayonice.com](http://www.galwaybayonice.com)

### Santa Villages:

#### Santa's Christmas Magic at

#### Brigit's Gardens

Roscahill, County Galway.

[www.brigitsgarden.ie](http://www.brigitsgarden.ie)

#### Turoe Pet Farm and Leisure Park

Bullaun, Loughrea.

[www.turoepetfarm.com](http://www.turoepetfarm.com)

#### Dunsandle Castle

Athenry.

[www.dunsandlecastle.com](http://www.dunsandlecastle.com) or

[www.santascastle.ie](http://www.santascastle.ie)

#### Athenry Heritage Centre

Athenry.

[www.athenryheritagecentre.com](http://www.athenryheritagecentre.com)

#### Dartfield Horse Museum

Kilreekil, Co. Galway.

[www.dartfield.com](http://www.dartfield.com)

### Limerick

### Christmas Racing Festival

26th – 29th December.

Limerick Racecourse, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

T: 061 320000

[www.limerickraces.ie](http://www.limerickraces.ie)

A racing tradition at Christmas.



## The West Counties Pocket Guide

## ACTIVITIES

# Travel Options

So easy to get around the West... and it's getting even easier with more transport links, better road infrastructure and an increased array of guided tours for those of you who just want to sit back, relax and enjoy all there is on offer in the West of Ireland!



The new M6 and the M7/M18 motorways connecting Dublin to Galway, Limerick and Ennis has greatly reduced travel times to the west from Dublin. In addition to the rail services from Dublin, the West of Ireland is now inter connected to the south of Ireland via a new rail link from Limerick City to Galway City via Athenry.

With Shannon International Airport, Co. Clare and services in and out of Ireland West Airport Knock and Galway Airport as well as a multitude of both public and private bus services around the region, there has never been a better time to visit and tour the West!

### AIR

#### Galway Airport

Carnmore, Co Galway  
Tel: 091 755569. Fax: 091 752876.  
[www.galwayairport.com](http://www.galwayairport.com)  
Email: [info@galwayairport.com](mailto:info@galwayairport.com)

#### Ireland West Airport Knock

Knock, Co Mayo  
Tel: 094 9368100. Fax: 094 9367994.  
[www.irelandwestairport.com](http://www.irelandwestairport.com)  
Email: [info@irelandwestairport.com](mailto:info@irelandwestairport.com)

#### Shannon Airport

Shannon, Co Clare  
Tel: 061 712000. Fax: 091 752876.  
[www.shannonairport.com](http://www.shannonairport.com)  
Email: [customercomments@daa.ie](mailto:customercomments@daa.ie)

### FERRY

There are numerous car and passenger Ferry Operators sailing to and from the East and South coasts of Ireland to the UK and France. Please visit one of the following websites for more details:

#### Stena Line

[www.stenaline.ie](http://www.stenaline.ie)

#### Irish Ferries

[www.irishferries.com](http://www.irishferries.com)

#### P&O Ferries

[www.poferries.com](http://www.poferries.com)

#### Norfolk Line

[www.norfolkline.com](http://www.norfolkline.com)

## ACTIVITIES



## REGIONAL BUS TOURS

### From Galway City

Fully guided bus tours depart from Galway City each morning throughout the year. Each tour company offers two regional tours and tickets for all of these fantastic guided tours can be purchased at the Discover Ireland Centre on Forster Street, Galway City:

#### 1. Connemara Tour

Discover Connemara with its deserted sweeps of golden sand, craggy mountains, windswept bogs and deserted valleys.

#### 2. Cliffs of Moher & Burren Tours

Grasp the breathtaking views of the Cliffs of Moher surrounded by the unique sparse limestone landscape of the Burren.

#### 3. Aran Islands Tour

Experience the unique traditions and culture of the world famous Aran Islands and the fabled fort Dún Aonghusa.

### Tour Operators

#### Faherty Tours

www.fahertytours.com  
Tel: 087 6110913

#### Galway Tour Company

www.galwaytourcompany.com  
Tel: 091 566566

#### Healy's

www.healytours.ie  
Tel: 091 770066

#### Lally's

www.lallytours.com  
Tel: 091 562905

#### O'Neachtains

www.ONtours.biz  
Tel: 091 553188

#### Burren Wild Tours

www.burrenwalks.com  
Tel: 087 8779565

### From Clare and Limerick

#### PK Travel

Offering day tours to the Burren, Limerick City including medieval Bunratty, Adare and Foynes.  
www.pktravel.com  
Tel: 061 471111

#### Railtours Ireland

Offering the Bunratty Castle Medieval Banquet and Cliffs of Moher Tour. Departs from Dublin, Heuston Station.  
www.railtoursireland.com  
Tel: 01 8560045

#### Authentic Ireland Travel Ltd

www.authenticireland.com  
Tel: 065 6844941

#### Glynn's Coaches

www.glynncoaches.com  
Tel: 065 6828234

#### Enchanted Way Tours

www.enchantedwaytours.ie  
Tel: 087 6603777

#### Barratt Tours

www.4tours.biz  
Tel: 087 2375986

#### Hynan Coaches

www.mikehynancoaches.com  
Tel: 086 2500433/061 381965

### Bus Eireann

Guided bus tours are available out of Ballina, Westport and Castlebar in Co. Mayo to Achill Island each Tuesday and Connemara and Kylemore Abbey each Thursday from June to September.  
Tel: 096 71800.

Ennis Bus station 065 6824177 and Limerick bus station 061 313333 can be contacted for a listing of up to date bus services.

## LOCAL TOURS

### 1. OPEN-TOP BUS TOURS

#### Galway City & Limerick City

'Hop On/Hop Off' Open-Top Bus Tours are a great way to see both Galway City ('City of the Tribes') and Limerick's Riverside City.

#### Open Top Bus Operators (Galway)

##### Galway Sightseeing Tours

Tel: 091 524728

##### Lally's Old Galway City Tour

www.lallytours.com  
Tel: 091 562905

##### O'Neachtains City Tour

www.ONtours.biz  
Tel: 091 553188

#### Open Top Bus Operators (Limerick)

##### Red Viking Tours

Hop on our red open top tour bus and enjoy Limerick city, a place steeped in history.  
Tel: 061 394033  
www.redvikingtours.com

### 2. GUIDED WALKING TOURS

If you would prefer to see the local streetscape by foot, then there's no better way than with a professional walking guide.

#### Galway City Walking Tours

Enjoy 90 minute guided walking tours of Galway City centre throughout the year. Tours depart from the Discover Ireland Centre on Forster Street. For more information contact your nearest Tourist Office.

#### Segway Adventures

An alternative and fun way to experience Galway City, Salthill and Inis Mór (Aran Islands). Bookings at Galway Discover Ireland Centre.

### Ennis Walking Tours

An experienced guide will lead you through the atmospheric streets and "bow-ways" of Ennis, the capital town of Co. Clare while revealing the intriguing characters and stories that shaped its history.  
Tel: 087 648 3714  
www.enniswalkingtours.com

#### Limerick City Walking Tours

Enjoy a range of guided walking tours including a historical walk of the City or explore Angela's Ashes, based on the book by Frank McCourt. Tours depart from the Tourist Information Office at Arthur's Quay. Tel: 061 317522  
www.shannonregiontrails.ie

#### Limerick Civic Trust Walking Tours

Lots of tours to choose from including The Georgian Quarter, People's Park, The Georgian House & Garden, North Munster Masonic Centre & Medieval Englishtown. Tel: 061 313399  
www.limerickcivictrust.ie

### 3. BOAT CRUISES

For those who love a trip on water, there is a great variety of guided boat trips in the west region.

#### Cruise Companies (Galway & Mayo)

##### Corrib Princess

(Galway City/River Corrib)  
www.corribprincess.ie  
Tel: 091 592447

##### Corrib Ferries

(Oughterard/Cong)  
www.corribcruises.com  
Tel: 087 2830799

##### Killary Cruises

(Leenane)  
www.killarycruises.com  
Tel: 091 566736

## ACTIVITIES

## LOCAL TOURS continued

### Cruise Companies (Co. Clare)

#### Cliffcruise.com

Doolin Pier, Co. Clare.  
www.aranline.ie

#### Cliffs of Moher Cruises

Doolin Pier, Co. Clare.  
Tel: 065 7075949  
www.cliffs-of-moher-cruises.com

#### Dolphin Discovery

Kilrush Creek Marina, Co. Clare.  
Tel: 065 9051327  
www.discoverdolphins.ie

#### Dolphinwatch

Carrigaholt, Co. Clare.  
Tel: 065 9058156  
www.dolphinwatch.ie

#### Doolin Ferry to the Cliffs of Moher

Doolin, Co. Clare.  
Tel: 065 7075555  
www.doolinferry.com

#### Scattery Island Ferries

Kilrush. Tel: 065 9051327  
www.discoverdolphins.ie

### Shannon Castle Line

Williamstown Harbour, Whitegate.  
Tel: 061 927042  
www.shannoncruisers.com

### Shannon Ferry Group

Killimer, Kilrush. Tel: 065 905312  
www.shannonferries.com

### Spirit of Killaloe River Cruises

Killaloe. Tel: 086 8140559

### Spirit of Lough Derg Cruises

Killaloe, Ballina.  
Tel: 086 8140559  
www.spiritofloughderg.com

### Shannon Estuary RIB Tours

Killaloe. Tel: 061 376622  
www.ulac.ie

### Cruise Companies (Co. Limerick)

#### Shannon Estuary RIB Tours

Killard, Ardagh.  
Tel: 086 8140833  
www.ribtours.ie

## GETTING TO THE ISLANDS

The West of Ireland has an array of unique offshore islands for you to visit. Getting to these islands has become virtually hassle free with both ferry and

flight to choose from in some cases. See pages 146 – 155 for more details on the islands and how to get there.

## TRAVELLING BY BUS

Bus Éireann The national bus carrier has an extensive selection of public bus services throughout the West of Ireland. See [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie) or contact your nearest Tourist Office for timetables and fares.

Bus Éireann also offers a 'hop-on/hop-off' open-road visitor bus pass which allows unlimited travel on Bus Éireann services nationwide for a

period of 3 days out of 6 consecutive days. There is also the option to purchase extra days to extend the pass. For more information please contact Bus Éireann on 096 71800 or visit the website above.

**City Link** Operates a service between Galway City and Dublin Airport and City, Cork Airport and City and Limerick City in addition to a regular service to

## TRAVELLING BY BUS continued

and from Clifden and Connemara. See [www.citylink.ie](http://www.citylink.ie) for timetables and fares.

**GoBus** Operates a service between Galway City, Dublin City and Dublin Airport. Visit [www.gobus.ie](http://www.gobus.ie) or phone 091 564600 for timetables and fares.

### Other Bus Operators

There are a number of other private bus companies operating on other routes throughout the West. Please check with your nearest Tourist Office for more information.

## TRAVELLING BY RAIL

There are daily services from Dublin to Westport, Castlebar, Galway, Limerick and to Ennis, Co. Clare. From Limerick City visitors can now also travel on a new rail line from Limerick in the

southwest via Athenry and into Galway City and vice versa. Please see Irish Rail Network below or visit [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie) for more timetables and fares.

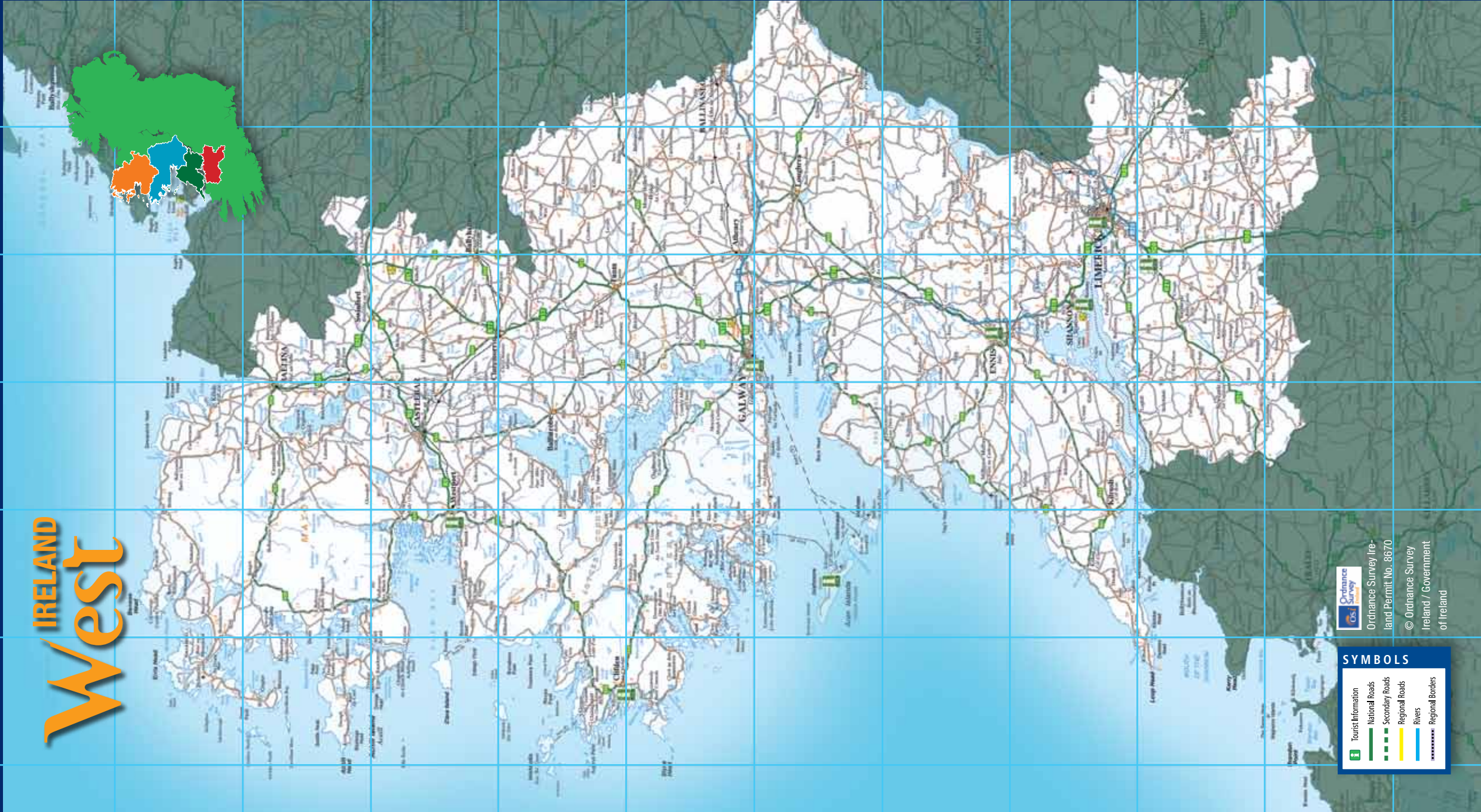
### Irish Rail Network



## ACTIVITIES



# IRELAND West



**SYMBOLS**

- Tourist Information
- National Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Regional Roads
- Rivers
- Regional Borders

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## ACTIVITIES